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TOKYOPOP

# SOUL TO SEOUL™

FROM·SEOUL·TO THE·EAST·COAST

VOL:03

KIM JEA EUN

SOUL TO SEOUL

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# SOUL TO SEOUL™

## 3

## Kim Jea Eun

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

# SOUL TO SEOUL™

## Story So Far

Kai and Spike are best friends living in New York who have a lot in common--they are both half-Korean teens trying to discover their place in the world. However, the bonds of their friendship are broken when they both fall for a Korean foreign exchange student named Sunil. Kai makes his move on Sunil despite Spike's feelings for her, which causes Spike, fueled by jealousy, to get into a fight that lands him in jail. Kai goes to a local gang leader for help, who orders him to kill the leader of the rival Gui-Ryung gang in exchange for bail money. Kai goes into hiding after killing the Gui-Ryung's leader, but a half-Korean member of the Gui-Ryung named Sujin manages to find him. However, instead of killing Kai, Sujin suggests that they join forces and form their own gang. Meanwhile, Kai's spoiled half-sister Gelda realizes that hatred may not be her sole emotion for J.J., her family's adopted ward. Later, when she see him singing at a local club, she realizes she's actually madly in love with him.

## Character Introductions

A Korean and white mix
Hobbies: Collecting army uniforms
Specialty: Lying, shooting
Wants to be: Gangster
Life motto: "Life is meaningless, cruel and foolish, yet glamorous."

**Kai Lee (Kangil Lee)** 17 years old
177 cm / 67 kg / Blood type AB

A Korean immigrant
Hobbies: Swimming, dancing
Specialty: Tae Kwon Do
Wants to be: Traveler
Life motto: "It could be enjoyable to live in a place where you don't know anyone."

**Sunil Sohn** 17 years old
172 cm / 52 kg / Blood type O

Second-generation Korean American
Hobbies: Making dolls
Specialty: Screaming
Wants to be: Too young to decide that yet, don't you think?
Life motto: "I'm too young to think about that stuff..."

**Gelda (Heesun Lee)** 14 years old
158 cm / 48kg / Blood type A

Korean Adoptee
Hobbies: Read anything you can read
Specialty: Doing makeup
Wants to be: Punk rock musician
Life motto: "Anything you learn from pain is touching."

**J.J. (Judas Jesus)** 14 years old
163 cm / 51kg / Blood type AB

A Korean and black mix
Hobbies: Working out
Specialty: Rap
Wants to be: A dad
Life motto: "Don't ever let them see you sweat."

**Spike Washington.** 17 years old
186cm/71 kg/ Blood type A

Exchange student from Korea
Hobbies: Hanging around
Specialty: Laughing at people
Wants to be: ___
Life motto: "I don't have a motto."

**Sangyul Choi** 17 years old
165 cm / 58 kg / Blood type B

# Soul to Seoul

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**SHOT #10**
Dangerous Play.....127

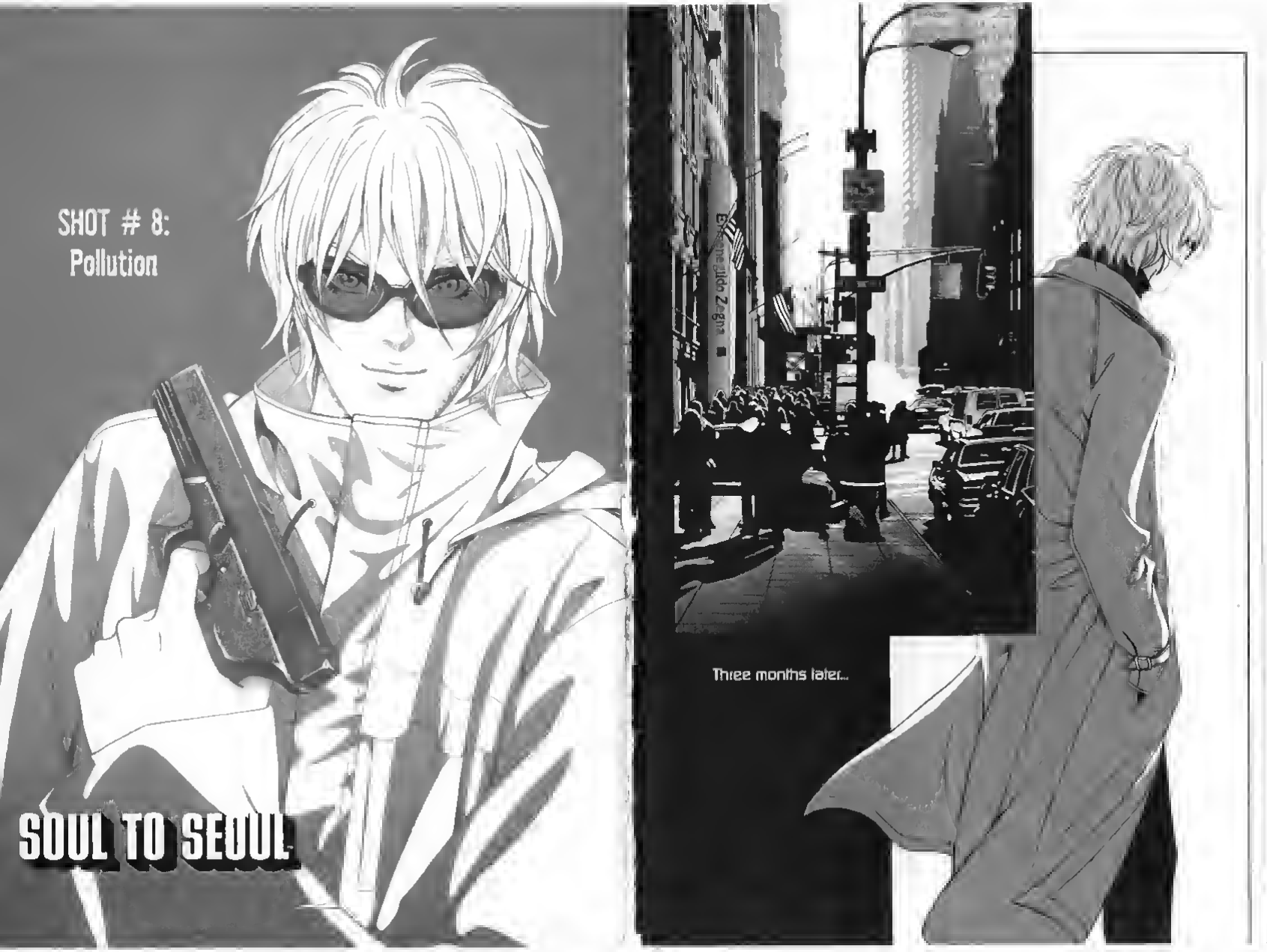
MY LOVED ONES? WHO WOULD THAT BE? DO I EVEN HAVE ANYONE?

WELL...

IT'S EASY TO PRETEND YOU'RE IN LOVE. BUT TO TRULY LOVE SOMEONE IS NEVER EASY.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.

HELL, I LEARNED TO KILL BEFORE I LEARNED TO LOVE.


SHOT # 8:
Pollution
SOUL TO SEOUL
Three months later...

NEW YORK GALLERY
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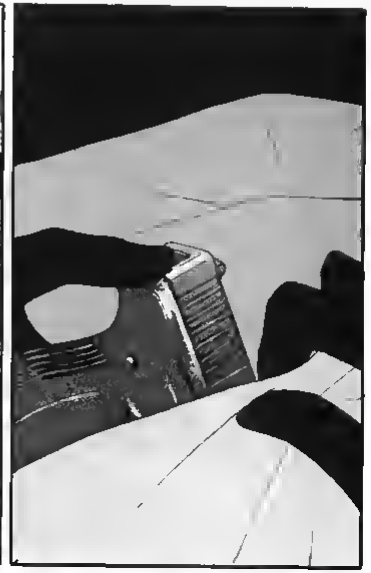
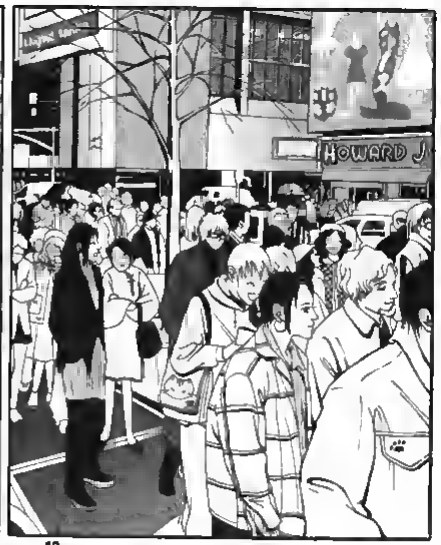
LIN KAIGE, 48 MOFFET STREET, CHINATOWN...




HOWARD J

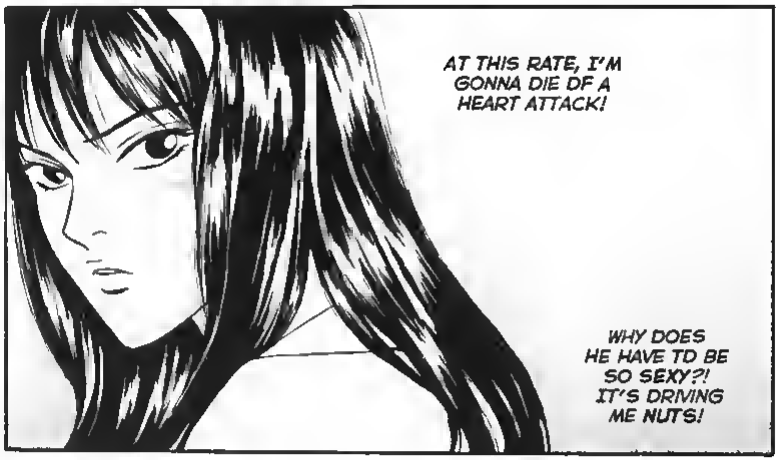
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GONNA BE IN THERE?!
Whew...
JUST WAIT A SEC! I'M USING THE CAN!
COME ON! I *REALLY* NEED TO GO! SOMEONE'S ALREADY IN THE OTHER ONE, TOO!
MAN--WOULD YOU STOP?! I TOLD YOU I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF IT! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GO IN A WEEK!
I LIVE HERE TOO, Y'KNOW!

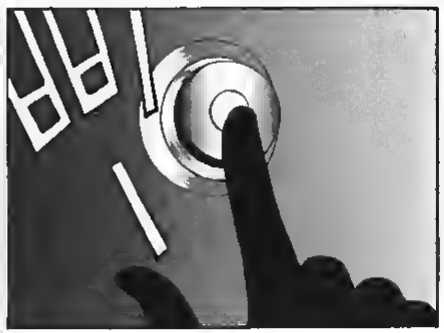
JEEZ...!
THE GUYS IN THIS FAMILY... THEY STAY IN THE BATHROOM ALL DAY LONG!
YEAH! HOLD ON... I'M DONE...
J.J....?

덜컹

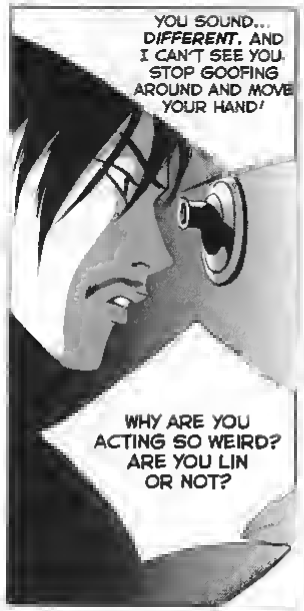
YOU...YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T WALK AROUND LIKE THAT.
SORRY. MY CLOTHES GOT WET WHILE I WAS IN THE SHOWER.

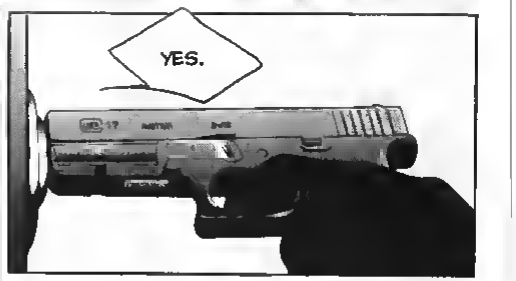
OH, WAIT...I FORGOT MY... GLASSES...
Haa
Haa


AT THIS RATE, I'M GONNA DIE OF A HEART ATTACK!
WHY DOES HE HAVE TO BE SO SEXY?! IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS!



WHO IS IT?
LIN? LIN KAIGE?
WHO WANTS TO KNOW? IS THAT YOU WEI...?
YEAH. OPEN THE DOOR.


YOU SOUND... *DIFFERENT*. AND I CAN'T SEE YOU. STOP GOOFING AROUND AND MOVE YOUR HAND!
WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO WEIRD? ARE YOU LIN OR NOT?


YES.

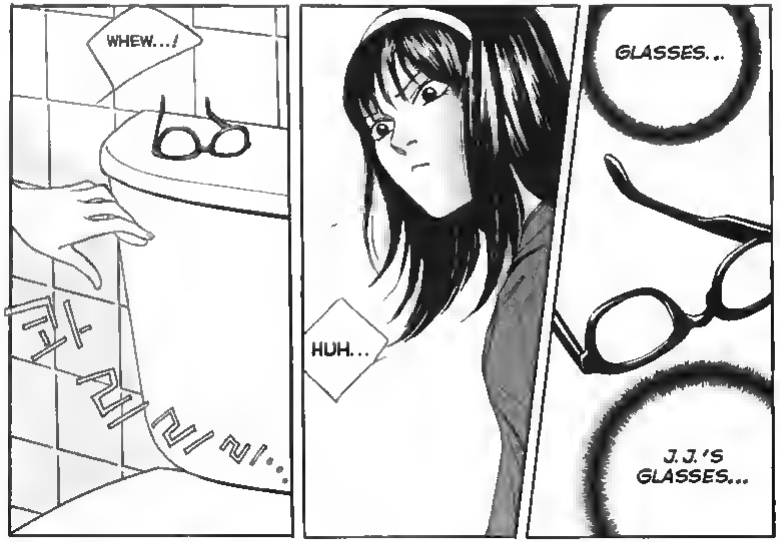
*ARE* YOU NOW...?

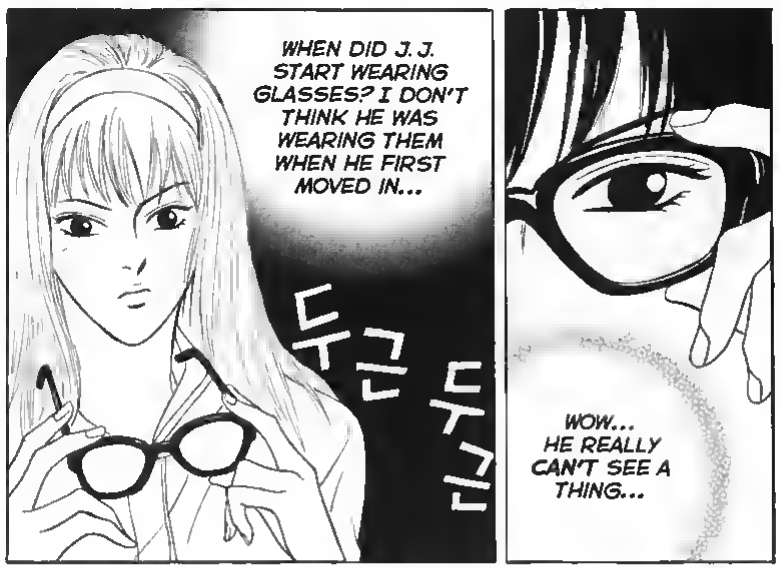
ARRRGH!!

SAY HELLO TO CHEN FOR ME.

AUSTRIA
탕

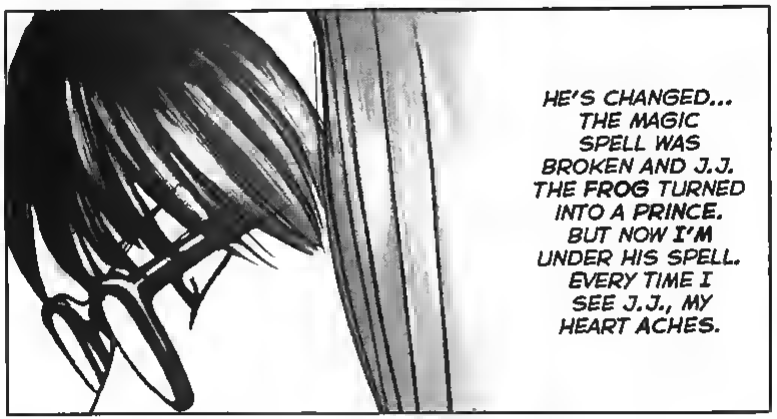



WHEW...!
콸콸콸콸..
HUH...
GLASSES..
J.J.'S GLASSES...


WHEN DID J.J. START WEARING GLASSES? I DON'T THINK HE WAS WEARING THEM WHEN HE FIRST MOVED IN...
딱
WOW... HE REALLY CAN'T SEE A THING...

J.J USED THIS SOAP...

IT SMELLS JUST LIKE HIM.


HE'S CHANGED... THE MAGIC SPELL WAS BROKEN AND J.J. THE FROG TURNED INTO A PRINCE. BUT NOW I'M UNDER HIS SPELL. EVERY TIME I SEE J.J., MY HEART ACHES.

BUT I CAN'T SAY A WORD...
ALL I WANT IS TO TELL HIM HOW MUCH I LIKE HIM.

LIN...?
LIN?!

타앙

NO

SHE'S LIN'S GIRLFRIEND.

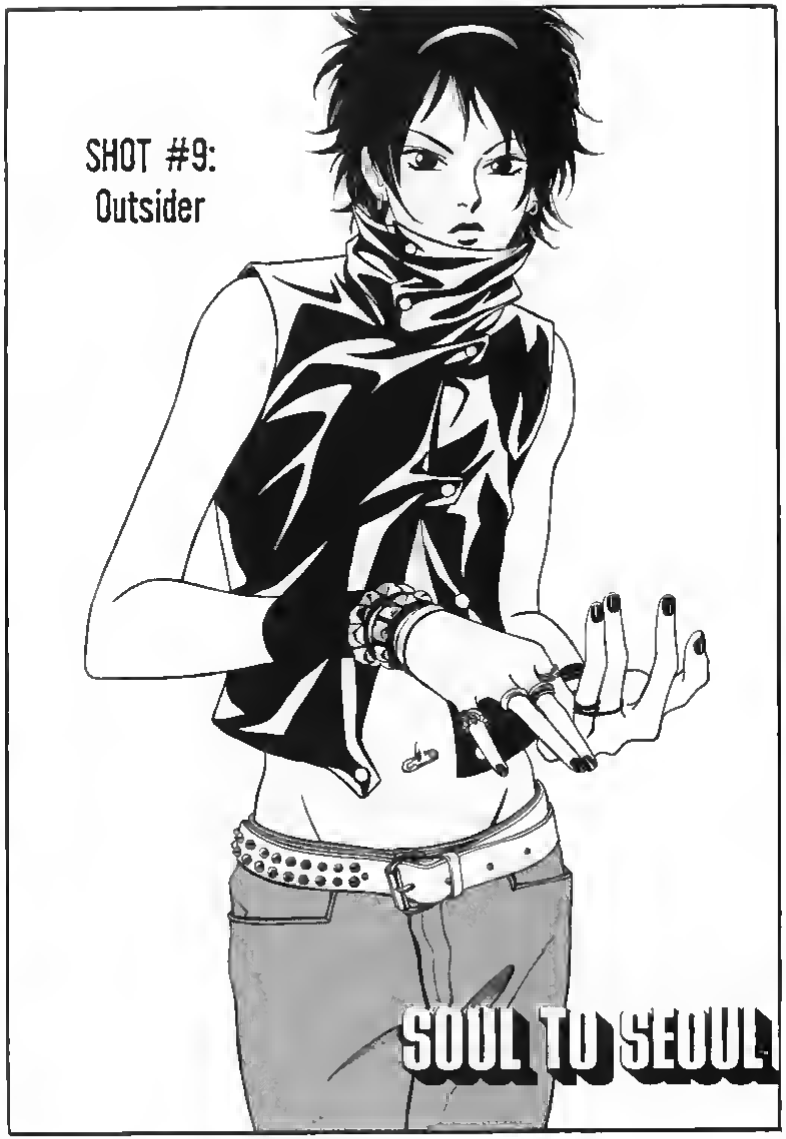
WHY DID YOU KILL HER?! SHE BELONGED TO ONE OF YOUR GANG MEMBERS!

DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID TO YOU? AS LONG AS I *LIVE*, I WON'T LET YOU *DIE*.

IF I HADN'T KILLED HER, SHE WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU.
YOU GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?

YEAH...BUT I'M THINKING ABOUT GETTING OUT OF GUI-RYUNG. I WANT TO GO OUT ON MY OWN...Y'KNOW, BE INDEPENDENT OF THE CHINESE.

WE SHOULD BECOME *PARTNERS*.


SHOT #9:
Outsider
SOUL TO SEOUL

LEE? IT'S ME.
Phone
Kai... did you do your homework?
It's done
ALREADY?
You're a fast learner. I guess it's really not that hard for you
I JUST LIKE GETTING MY HOMEWORK OUT OF THE WAY.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU. ANYWAY, I MADE A DEPOSIT AT THE BANK. USE IT WHEN YOU NEED IT.
All right--I will.

beep
beep
GEE... THIS OLD MAN REALLY HAS A LOT OF MONEY. WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS LETS HIM MAKE THIS MUCH CASH?
SPIKE COULD REALLY USE THIS KIND OF MONEY...
찰칵
SPIKE!

NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN SPIKE IN THREE MONTHS.
SPIKE? HE USED TO LIVE HERE? WE ONLY MOVED IN A MONTH AGO...
THEY MOVED...? WHERE...?
DON'T KNOW. THE APARTMENT WAS VACANT WHEN WE GOT HERE.

SPIKE...
SPIKE...
SPIKE IS GONE.
SPIKE... IS GONE.
WHENEVER I CAME HERE, I'D ALWAYS SEE HIS BRIGHT, SMILING FACE...
Hey you don't have to come to this crappy neighborhood!

MY GOODNESS...! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT! THERE WERE A COUPLE OF BIG FIGHTS.
IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WERE ONLY TWO OR THREE LOOKING FOR HIM. THEN IT BECAME FIVE-- AND THE NEXT TIME EVEN MORE. NONE OF THEM COULD TAKE SPIKE, THOUGH.
BUT THEN... ONE DAY... SPIKE WAS OUT. AND HIS FATHER AND BROTHER WERE BEATEN UP PRETTY BADLY.

I DIDN'T SEE THEM FOR A WHILE AFTER THAT...AND THEN, FINALLY, THEY DISAPPEARED.

I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST MET SPIKE...
I DIDN'T SPEAK TO ANYONE AND DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS BECAUSE I WAS SO DEPRESSED.
I HEAR YOU'RE HALF-KOREAN. WELCOME. I AM, TOO.

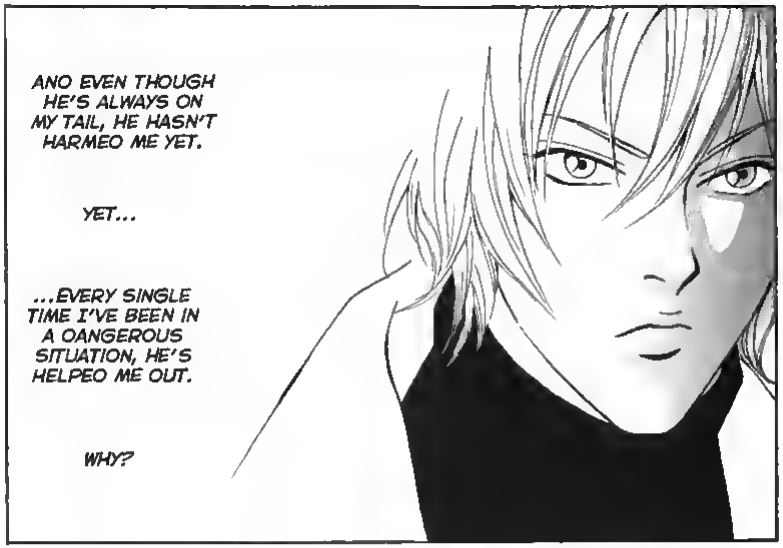
MY MOM'S KOREAN. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HE WAS SO HAPPY THAT I WAS HALF-KOREAN... THAT WE HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON. HE WENT CRAZY OVER ANYTHING KOREAN.
BUT I RE. LLY HATE BEING ASKED ABOUT MY FAMILY.
BEING WITH MY FAMILY ALWAYS MAKES ME FEEL LIKE AN OUTSIDER. I HAVE DIFFERENT COLORED HAIR AND SKIN.

JUST LIKE THOSE SMILES IN A FAMILY PORTRAIT, IT WAS ALL FAKE. FAKE PEACE, FAKE HOME, FAKE LOVE.
I FELT SUFFOCATED BY EVERY-THING.
BUT SPIKE... HE WAS DIFFERENT. HIS HAIR AND SKIN WERE DIFFERENT, TOO... BUT HIS SMILE WASN'T FAKE.
HE WAS THE KIND OF GUY WHO WOULDN'T PUT UP WITH MY CRAP. I FELT THE MOST RELAXED AND COMFORTABLE WHEN I WAS WITH HIM.

SPIKE WAS THE ONLY PERSON I COULD COMPLETELY OPEN UP TO...
WHERE DID YOU GO?

SEE YOUR LOVED ONES DIE ONE BY ONE.

NO WAY... HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO SPIKE IS. OURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS THAT HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME AROUND, I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN SPIKE.


AND EVEN THOUGH HE'S ALWAYS ON MY TAIL, HE HASN'T HARMED ME YET.
YET...
...EVERY SINGLE TIME I'VE BEEN IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION, HE'S HELPED ME OUT.
WHY?

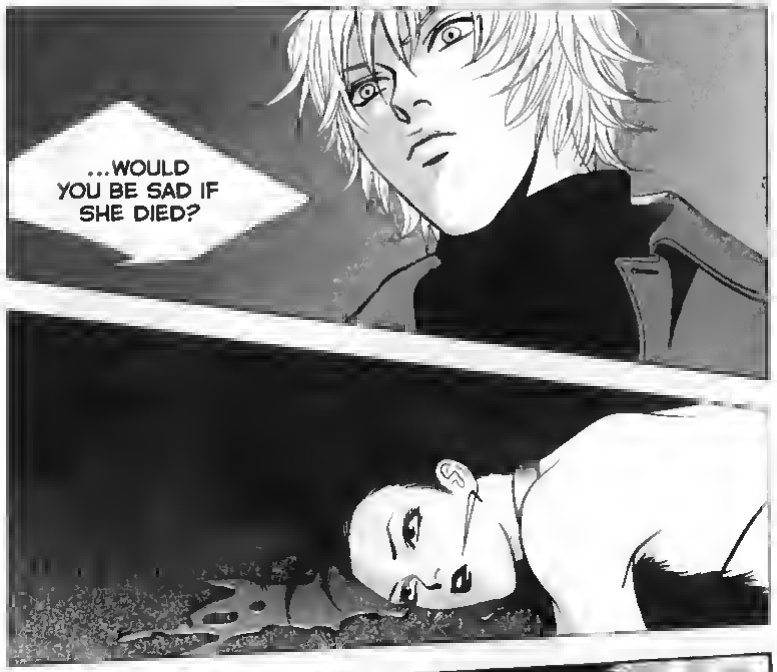
WHY?
I LIKE YOUR BLUE EYES.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST *TAKE* THEM?
ALTHOUGH I DID FALL IN LOVE WITH THOSE PIERCING COLD, BLUE EYES.
WHAT WOULD *I* DO WITH *JUST* YOUR EYEBALLS?
THEY MADE ME CRAZY.

YOU'RE GONNA BETRAY YOUR GANG AND PARTNER JUST BECAUSE YOU LIKE MY *EYES*? NICE.
I HAVE NO LOYALTY TO GUI-RYUNG. I WAS FORCED TO JOIN THEM...BUT I ALWAYS WANTED TO GO OUT ON MY OWN. AND THEN I MET YOU, MY FELLOW BLUE-EYED KOREAN.
WHAT ARE YOU--GAY?
WELL, I DON'T EVER REMEMBER BEING *THIS* CRAZY FOR A WOMAN. I GUESS THAT MAKES ME A *MALE SUPREMACIST.*
NO...IT MAKES YOU A *PERVERT.* LOOK--I'M NOT INTERESTED IN FOOLING AROUND WITH YOU, SO GO FIND SOMEONE ELSE. I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.

GIRLFRIEND? OH, RIGHT...THAT BOYISH GIRL? SHE DID HAVE A PRETTY NICE BODY, THOUGH. WHAT WAS HER NAME AGAIN...?
SUNIL, WASN'T IT?
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH HER?

I DON'T KNOW.
YOU DON'T KNOW? THEN...




...WOULD YOU BE SAD IF SHE DIED?

PROMISE THAT YOU WON'T EVER MAKE ME UNHAPPY.

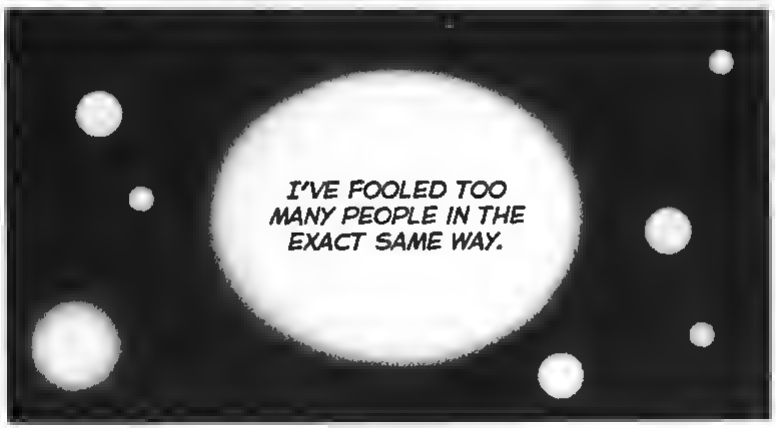
YOU BETTER NOT LAY A *FINGER* ON HER! IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO SUNIL, *YOU'RE* GONNA JOIN YOUR *FRIENDS* OVER THERE!

WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?
DON'T WORRY. I DON'T FIND HER ATTRACTIVE. BUT I AM RATHER JEALOUS.
I TOLD YOU ALREADY... TO BECOME *PARTNERS*. I WANT US TO BE ON THE SAME TEAM...AND *NOT* ENEMIES.
WHY? BECAUSE YOU *FASCINATE* ME. AND I CAN'T BE THE ENEMY OF SOMEONE I'M IN *LOVE* WITH.

YOU'RE DANGEROUS. I CAN'T TRUST YOU.
AS LONG AS I'M BY YOUR SIDE, YOU'LL BE SAFE.
YOU CAN TRUST ME ON THAT.
.....

PLEASE... JUST LET ME PROTECT YOU.
THAT LOOK HE GAVE ME... SO SINCERE, SO POWERFUL... FOR A MOMENT, I ALMOST WANTED TO LET HIM.

HOWEVER... I CAN'T TRUST SOMEONE BASED ON THAT.


I'VE FOOLED TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THE EXACT SAME WAY.

SOUL TO SEOUL

TODAY IS MOM'S BIRTHDAY.

SO WE'RE HAVING A PARTY.

SHE'S NOT MY REAL MOM... BUT SHE TOLD ME THAT AS LONG AS I'M LIVING IN THE HOUSE, I COULD CALL HER "MOM."

MOM IS BEAUTIFUL. YOUNG, SLENDER, KIND... HER HAIR AND SKIN COLOR IS JUST LIKE MINE.

DAD...

HE'S ALSO KOREAN. WE HAVE SIMILAR FEATURES, TOO.

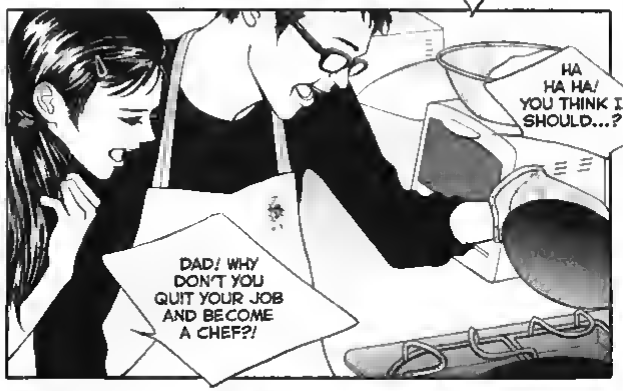
HE CAME HOME EARLY TODAY JUST TO COOK FOR MOM.

"DAD" IS CHARMING BECAUSE HE'S JUST A REGULAR, ORDINARY GUY.

ALTHOUGH I KNOW I WON'T BE LIVING IN THIS HOUSE FOREVER, THESE ARE THE PARENTS I ALWAYS DREAMED OF.

GELDA IS...

WOW! THAT LOOKS GREAT!!

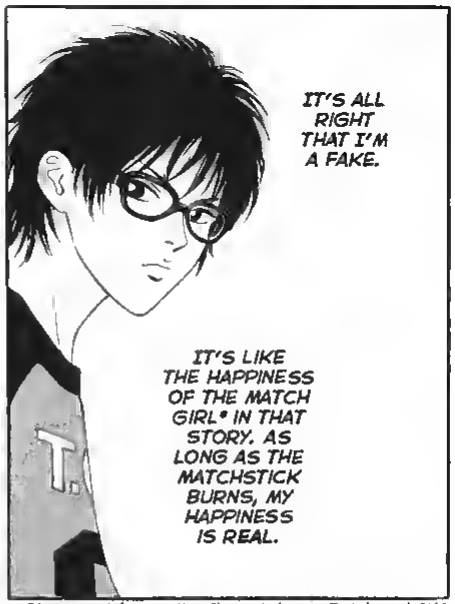



SHE'S JUST A TYPICAL GIRL. SHE'S CUTE AND WELL LOVED AND GETS A LOT OF CONFIDENCE FROM BEING THEIR ONLY DAUGHTER.

BUT THERE ARE THINGS THAT GELDA DOES THAT REMIND ME OF THINGS... THINGS I WANT TO FORGET.



"YOU'RE A FAKE."



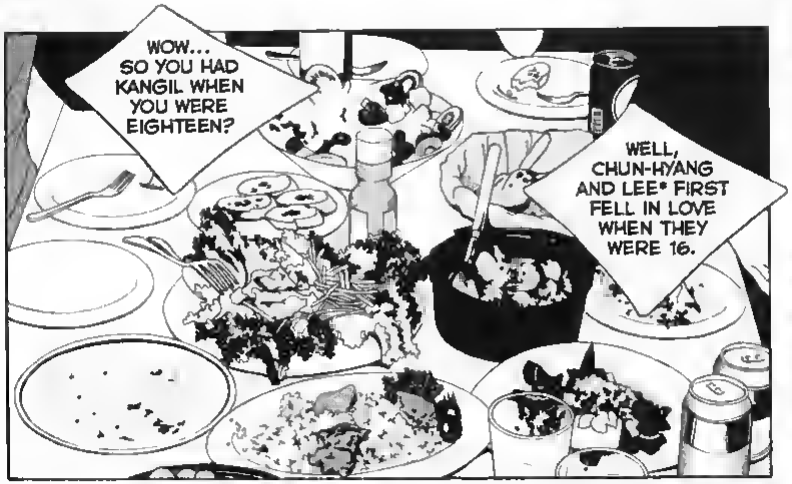
IT'S ALL RIGHT THAT I'M A FAKE.

IT'S LIKE THE HAPPINESS OF THE MATCH GIRL* IN THAT STORY. AS LONG AS THE MATCHSTICK BURNS, MY HAPPINESS IS REAL.

Editor's Note: Reference to Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Match Girl."

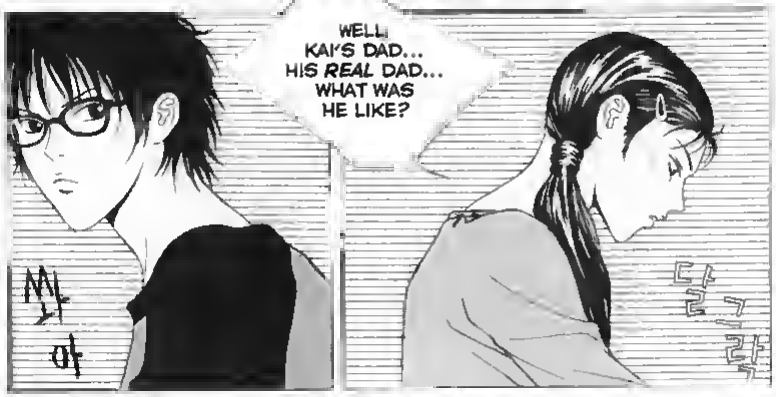
WHAT DID I MISS? HAS THE PARTY ALREADY STARTED?
KAI! WHY ARE YOU SO LATE?!
I WAS PICKING OUT THE CAKE.
KAI'S JUST COME BACK.
WHAT KIND DID YOU GET?
MOM'S FAVORITE-- STRAWBERRY MOUSSE. DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK ME TO FIND THIS?
MOM-- HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
HE'S DEFINITELY DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF THE FAMILY...DIFFERENT-LOOKING, THAT IS. AND JUST TO KEEP IT THAT WAY, HE BLEACHED HIS HAIR WHITE.
THANK YOU, SON.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THIRTY-FIVE ALREADY!
-CHU!
KAI ALWAYS SAYS THAT HE'S AN OUTSIDER.
I'M ONLY THIRTY-FIVE...! REMEMBER THAT!
BUT I'M THE REAL OUTSIDER.
I'M NOT LEGALLY ADOPTED, SO THIS FAMILY IS ONLY TEMPORARY. I'LL ALWAYS BE WAITING...WAITING FOR SOMEDNE TO TAKE CARE OF ME.
WOW-- AUNTIE, YOU'RE THAT YOUNG?
SOMEDAY, I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THIS HOUSE...
MY MOM'S ALREADY IN HER FIFTIES!
YOU'RE REALLY TEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN MY UNCLE?




*Editor's Note: "Chun-Hyang and Lee" is a famous Korean love story, similar to *Romeo and Juliet*

WHY ARE YOU ACTING ALL SURPRISED?
YOU KNOW THAT I WAS A BASTARD AND MOM WAS AN UNMARRIED TEENAGER. ARE YOU HAVING FUN BRINGING THAT ALL UP?



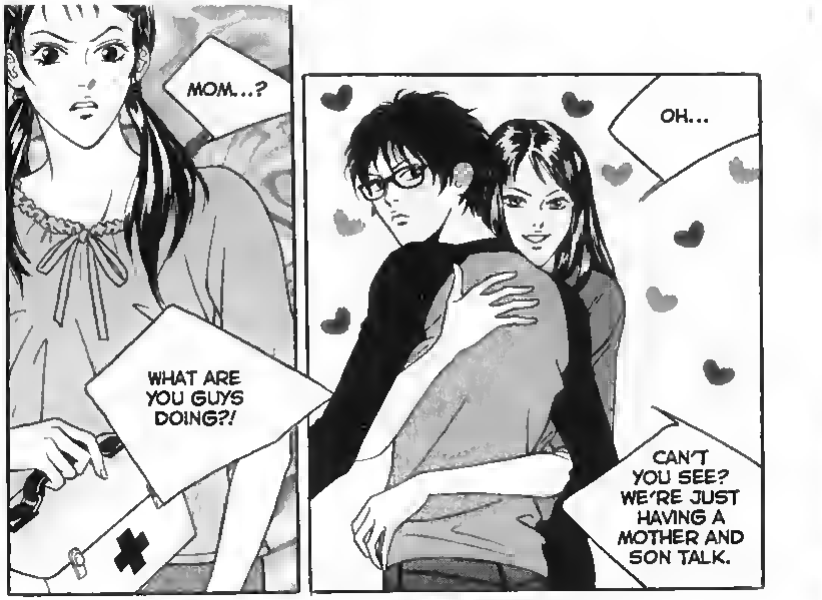
HUH?

FINE.
I GET IT.
(She doesn't want to talk about it.)
.....

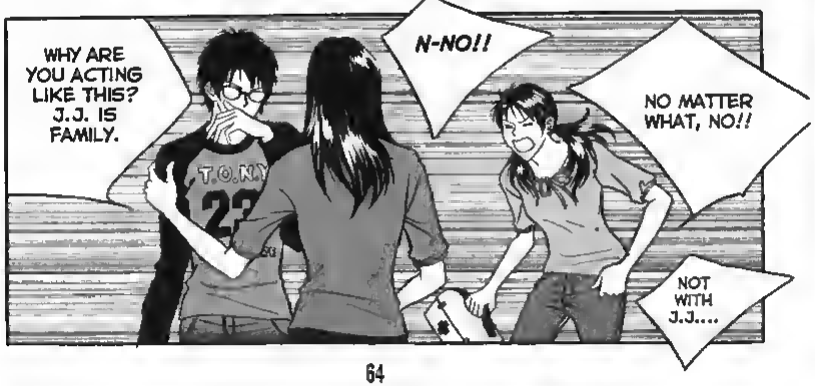
Ow!
OH NO...

ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE. IT'S NOTHING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT'S NOTHING?! YOU'RE BLEEDING!
LET ME SEE... THE CUT'S NOT THAT DEEP. GELDA, WOULD YOU GET THE FIRST AID KIT?
MOM...
MOM...

YES?
I LOVE YOU, MOM.
I WISH... YOU WERE MY REAL MOM.
I KNOW, J.J. I LOVE YOU, TOO.
YOU SAY ALL THE THINGS THAT KAI WILL NEVER SAY TO ME.
.....

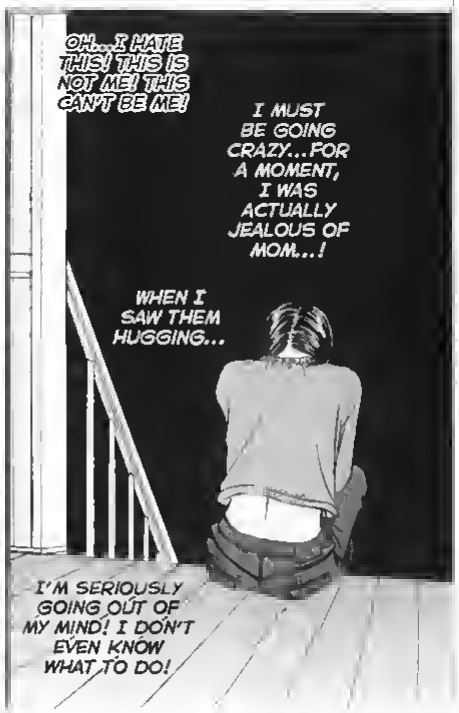

MOM...?
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!
OH...
CAN'T YOU SEE? WE'RE JUST HAVING A MOTHER AND SON TALK.

MOTHER AND SON...?
HOW CAN J.J. BE YOUR SON?! DON'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT THAT!


WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS? J.J. IS FAMILY.
N-NO!!
NO MATTER WHAT, NO!!
NOT WITH J.J....

NOT WITH J.J.!!
I CAN'T BE HIS SISTER!!

I'M SORRY, J.J. SHE'S IN ONE OF THOSE MOODS. I APOLOGIZE.
IT'S FINE.

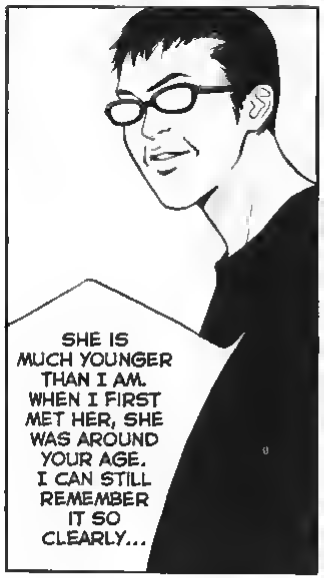

OH... I HATE THIS! THIS IS NOT ME! THIS CAN'T BE ME!
I MUST BE GOING CRAZY... FOR A MOMENT, I WAS ACTUALLY JEALOUS OF MOM...!
WHEN I SAW THEM HUGGING...
I'M SERIOUSLY GOING OUT OF MY MIND! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO!

ARE THEY ALL STILL CLEANING UP?
LET'S HAVE A DRINK, THEN.

A FATHER AND SON TALK WOULD BE NICE, RIGHT?
TONYTOUR

IS EVERYTHING OKAY WITH YOU?
YES...

UNCLE! I...I SPOKE OUT OF TURN! I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT...!
NO. YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING WRONG. IT WAS JUST AN INAPPROPRIATE CONVERSATION FOR DINNER.


SHE IS MUCH YOUNGER THAN I AM. WHEN I FIRST MET HER, SHE WAS AROUND YOUR AGE. I CAN STILL REMEMBER IT SO CLEARLY...

A PREGNANT SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD KOREAN GIRL.
EVEN IF I BECOME SENILE, I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT MOMENT.

I WAS TWENTY-SEVEN AT THE TIME, WORKING AS A LOAN SPECIALIST AT A BANK. SHE SAT DOWN AT MY DESK AND SAID SHE NEEDED A LOAN
I ASKED HER HOW SHE WAS GOING TO USE IT, AND SHE SAID...
"I'M GOING TO HAVE MY CHILD AND RAISE HIM BY MYSELF. BUT MY FAMILY IS AGAINST IT, SO I CAN'T LIVE THERE ANYMORE. SO I NEED A PLACE TO LIVE."
"IT'S DIFFICULT RIGHT NOW, BUT I'M SURE I COULD PAY IT BACK."
SUCH A CONFIDENT FACE... I COULD NEVER FORGET IT. IN ALL OF MY YEARS, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO BEAUTIFUL.

AND SO, I WAS IN LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME--WITH A GIRL TEN YEARS MY JUNIOR AND PREGNANT BY ANOTHER MAN.
BUT WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE, YOU'RE BLIND TO EVERYTHING ELSE.
I WAS REALLY AMAZED THAT I COULD ACTUALLY LOVE SOMEONE SO MUCH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KANGIL?
ABOUT WHAT?
I MEAN, DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU LOVE?

YES... EVEN I HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT. I JUST REALIZED IT TODAY.

THOUGH, I'M SORRY TO SAY, THERE AREN'T ANY BANKS THAT WILL GRANT A LOAN TO A PREGNANT TEENAGER WITH NO ASSETS OR SAVINGS...EVEN IF SHE ASSURES YOU SHE'LL PAY IT BACK...

SO...HOW DID YOU CONVINCE MY AUNT TO MARRY YOU? DID YOU GIVE HER THE LOAN WITH THE CONDITION OF MARRIAGE...?
HA HA HA! NO WAY! I'M NOT ALLOWED TO DO THAT...!

"WELL, LIKE MY FRIEND SAID, I'D HAVE A BETTER CHANCE ROBBING A BANK."

IT WAS ALMOST FUNNY IMAGINING HER WITH THAT HUGE BELLY, ROBBING A BANK...
BUT THEN... SUDDENLY... IT MADE ME SAD. AS I WATCHED HER WALK OUT OF THE BANK, I FELT SOMETHING BURNING INSIDE ME.

A VOICE SCREAMED OUT IN MY HEAD "YOU CAN'T LET HER GO LIKE THAT! GO AFTER HER!"
WAIT...!
IF...YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT... I COULD GET YOU A ROOM...

I HAVE AN APARTMENT THAT I SHARE WITH A ROOMMATE...BUT HE'S MOVING OUT SOON.
THANK YOU, BUT...YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY RIGHT NOW...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU CAN REPAY ME AFTER YOU HAVE THE BABY. YOU SAID YOU COULD DO THAT, RIGHT?

WHAT?! YOU'RE KICKING ME OUT?! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!
Sorry-- it's an emergency. Please understand.
How do you expect me to find a new place on such short notice?!
I ALREADY FOUND YOU ONE. 34TH AND BROADWAY. IT'S A ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT...AND THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A ROOMMATE. THEY HAVE FURNITURE, AND YOU'D SHARE THE CABLE AND UTILITIES. IT'S ONLY $495 A MONTH. PLUS, I'VE ALREADY PAID FOR TWO MONTHS. COME ON...THAT'S GREAT, RIGHT...?

BYUNG-CHUL HWANG, MY ROOMMATE.
BECAUSE I WANTED TO HELP HER...BECAUSE I WANTED TO HAVE HER BY MY SIDE... I KICKED OUT MY POOR FRIEND.
HI.
DON'T WORRY... IT'S ALL RIGHT. I FOUND ANOTHER APARTMENT.

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT? COME ON-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SHY. SHE'S REALLY PRETTY. WHERE DID YOU FIND HER, ANYWAY? SHE LOOKS SO YOUNG... HOW OLD IS SHE?
SEVENTEEN.
WHAT?!

SO...THAT'S HOW I GOT TO LIVE WITH YOUR MOM.

WHILE I WAS WITH HER, I WOULD ALWAYS DREAM THAT SHE WAS MY BELOVED WIFE... AND THAT THE CHILD INSIDE HER WAS MINE.

AFTER A FEW MONTHS, THE BABY WAS BORN.
A WHITE-SKINNED, BLOND-HAIRED, BLUE-EYED BOY...

I WAS A LITTLE... NO...ACTUALLY, I WAS VERY SHOCKED.
WHEN I SAW THE BABY'S SNOW-WHITE SKIN, I WAS JOLTED AWAKE FROM MY DREAM.

"I'LL CALL HIM 'KAI,' SINCE HE'S JUST AS PALE AS THE BOY WHO WAS TAKEN AWAY BY THE SNOW QUEEN."

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
YOU'VE BEEN SO GOOD TO ME...

I'M FOREVER INDEBTED TO YOU. I DON'T THINK I CAN EVER REPAY YOU IN THIS LIFETIME FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME...BUT I STILL WANT TO TRY.
SHE PROBABLY NDTICED THAT I WASN'T VERY HAPPY ABDUT HER BABY...

AS I WATCHED HER LEAVE, SHE MADE ME FEEL SO ASHAMED.
I WAS FILLED WITH GUILT...
THE SIN OF WANTING HER, WHEN SHE WASN'T EVEN MINE, OVER-WHELMED ME...

YUH-HEE!
DON'T GO!
I...CAN'T LIVE *WITHOUT* YOU!
YOU SAID YOU WANT TO REPAY ME? THEN *STAY* BY MY *SIDE!* THAT'S ALL I WANT! I DON'T CARE IF YOUR HEART IS WITH SOMEONE ELSE...I WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY! WE CAN RAISE KAI TOGETHER...AND BE A FAMILY... AND...AND...

SO THAT'S HOW YOU PROPOSED TO HER.
DID MOM SAY YES RIGHT AWAY?
SORT OF. YOUR MOTHER IS VERY SMART. SHE KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR HER AND WHAT'S NOT...
I GOT THE WOMAN I LOVE, AND YOUR MOM GOT A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WHERE SHE COULD FREELY RAISE HER CHILD. IT WASN'T A BAD DEAL, REALLY.
DEAL? UNCLE...THAT SOUNDS SO... *COLD.*
COLD? NAH...HER *ANSWER* WAS COLD.

DEAL.

WHEN I GET OLDER AND FORGET EVERY WORD I KNOW, THERE IS ONE WORD THAT WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE DEEP INSIDE ME. I'LL NEVER FORGET IT... DEAL." THE WORD BROUGHT ME *TOTAL DEVASTATION*...BUT ALSO *EXTREME JOY*. IT PUT THE WHOLE WORLD IN MY HANDS. "DEAL"...
EVEN NOW, WHEN I HEAR IT, MY HEART SKIPS A BEAT. HEH HEH...

AFTER A FEW YEARS OF MARRIAGE, GELDA WAS BORN. WE NAMED HER AFTER THE GIRL WHO FOLLOWS KAI AND RESCUES HIM FROM THE SNOW QUEEN.
AND NOW HERE WE ARE.

SO YOU REALLY LOVED MOM, HUH, DAD?
OF COURSE, KIDDO. I STILL DO.

MY DAD... WHAT'S HE LIKE?
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HIM?
YOU TELL ME. I'M SITTING RIGHT HERE.

IT'S SO QUIET IN HERE. WHAT THE HECK'S SO INTERESTING?

IT'S BEEN WAY TOO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU.
BYUNG-CHUL! YOU...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN?! AND NOW HERE YOU ARE!
I KNOW, I KNOW... I REALIZED THAT THERE WAS STILL A LOT TO LIVE FOR.
I AM SO GLAD TO SEE YOU.../ I WAS SO WORRIED/ I REALLY THOUGHT YOU MIGHT DO SOMETHING CRAZY AFTER YOUR WIFE'S DEATH...
AW, JUST CALL HER YOUR OLDER SISTER-IN-LAW...

YOUR FAMILY HAS GROWN SINCE I LAST SAW YOU. YOU HAD TWO MORE SONS AND DIDN'T TELL ME?
HA HA! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS MY NEPHEW FROM KOREA.
AND NUMBER TWENTY-THREE OVER THERE...

OH, I'M JUST A RESCUE.
T.ONY
WHAT? A RESCUE? LIKE FROM THE STREETS?

SO IT'S TRUE...
HE'S REALLY A STREET KID...I'M IMPRESSED. YOU HAVE YOUR NEPHEW, KAI...AND NOW YOU'RE RAISING A KID FROM THE STREETS. EITHER YOU REALLY LIKE CHILDREN--OR YOU HAVE A LOT OF MONEY YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH. WHICH ONE IS IT?
OH, A LITTLE OF A. A LITTLE OF B... WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU STILL ALONE?
YEAH. AFTER MY WIFE PASSED, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR A YEAR. THEN, FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, I JUST THREW MYSELF INTO MY WORK.

I REALLY WISH SHE'D GIVEN ME A KID BEFORE SHE PASSED AWAY... BUT I GUESS I'M DESTINED TO LIVE ALONE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
MAYBE YOU'D CONSIDER ADOPTING THIS KID...?

ADOPTING?

HIM...?
ADOPT ME...?

He's a good-looking kid and seems smart...
YEAH. WHAT WOULD YOU THINK...?

I KNOW IT'S KIND OF SUDDEN. JUST THINK ABOUT IT...YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE RIGHT AWAY. BUT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR BOTH OF US.
MY HOUSE ISN'T AS LARGE AS THIS...AND IT WOULD BE JUST THE TWO OF US... BUT YOU'D BE GIVING ME A CHANCE TO BECOME A FATHER. I'D LIKE THAT.
WHAT...? ADOPT J.J.? THEN... HE'LL LEAVE HERE FOREVER? WE'D BE COMPLETE STRANGERS?
I WAS ALSO EVEN THINKING ABOUT MOVING BACK TO KOREA. YOU WERE BORN THERE, RIGHT? WOULD YOU EVER WANT TO GO BACK THERE AND LIVE?

KOREA...?
WHERE I WAS BORN...?
KOREA? TO KOREA...?
J.J.... NO...
WOULD YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME?

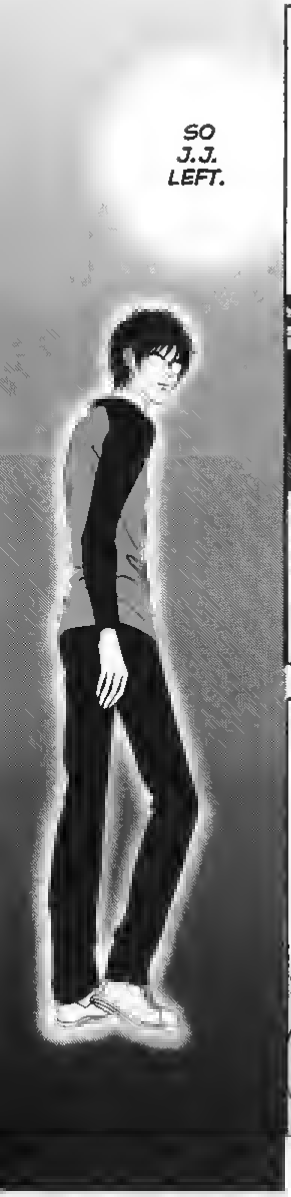
NO!!
DON'T GO, J.J.! KOREA IS TOO FAR! IT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD!
IF YOU GO TO KOREA...WE MAY NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
THAT'S NOT OKAY WITH YOU, RIGHT? THINK ABOUT MOM, DAD, KAI... YOU'LL NEVER GET TO SEE THEM AGAIN!

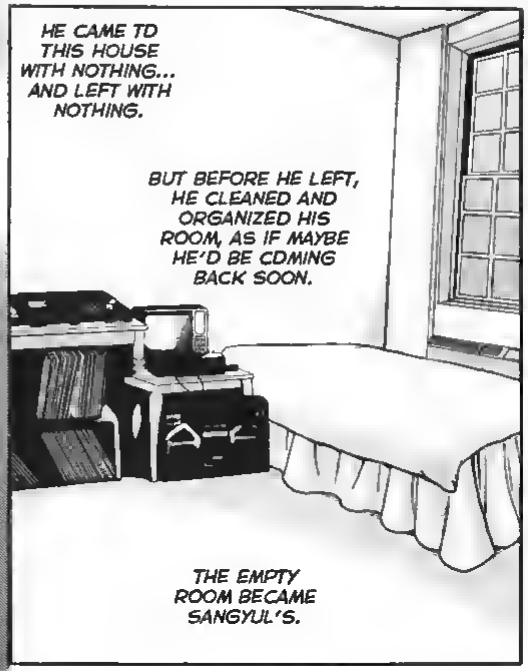
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, GELDA...
I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG...
...TO HAVE A FAMILY OF MY OWN...
I'M SORRY, J.J. WE HAD WANTED TO ADOPT YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME...BUT WE COULDN'T COMPLETELY IGNORE GELDA'S FEELINGS.
WE WERE HOPING THAT YOU AND GELDA WOULD GET ALONG BETTER, BUT...
I'M SORRY FOR NOT GETTING ALONG WITH HER.

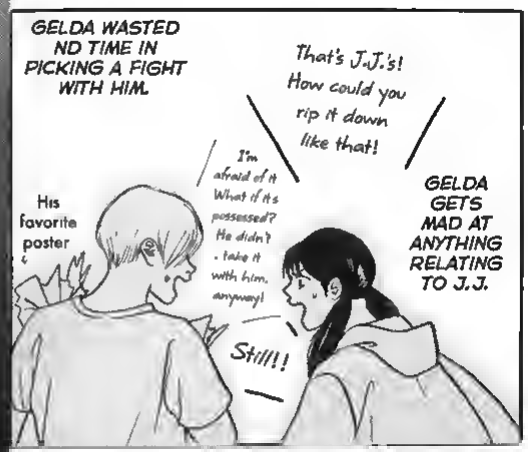
REALLY...ALL I WANTED WAS TO BECOME PART OF THE FAMILY. BUT...I THOUGHT I WASN'T *WORTHY* ENOUGH.

SO COME LIVE WITH ME. I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT. LET'S GO AND LIVE IN KOREA *TOGETHER!*

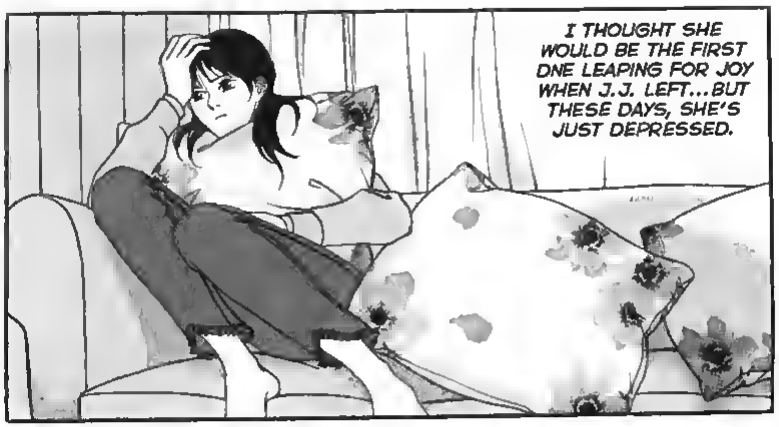
SOUL TO SEOUL


SO J.J. LEFT.

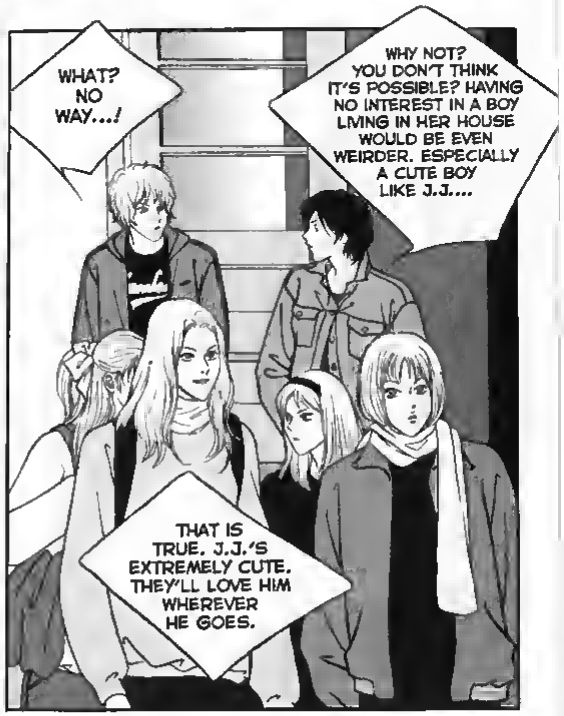

HE CAME TO THIS HOUSE WITH NOTHING... AND LEFT WITH NOTHING.
BUT BEFORE HE LEFT, HE CLEANED AND ORGANIZED HIS ROOM, AS IF MAYBE HE'D BE COMING BACK SOON.
THE EMPTY ROOM BECAME SANGYUL'S.


GELDA WASTED NO TIME IN PICKING A FIGHT WITH HIM.
His favorite poster
I'm afraid of it. What if it's possessed? He didn't take it with him, anyway!
That's J.J.'s! How could you rip it down like that!
Still!!
GELDA GETS MAD AT ANYTHING RELATING TO J.J.




I THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE THE FIRST ONE LEAPING FOR JOY WHEN J.J. LEFT... BUT THESE DAYS, SHE'S JUST DEPRESSED.

I THINK GELDA MUST HAVE LIKED J.J.


WHAT? NO WAY...!
WHY NOT? YOU DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE? HAVING NO INTEREST IN A BOY LIVING IN HER HOUSE WOULD BE EVEN WEIRDER. ESPECIALLY A CUTE BOY LIKE J.J....
THAT IS TRUE. J.J.'S EXTREMELY CUTE. THEY'LL LOVE HIM WHEREVER HE GOES.

SPEAKING OF MOVING... DID YOU KNOW THAT HILLARY REED JUST TRANSFERRED TO OUR SCHOOL? I JUST SAW HER IN THE LIBRARY.

WHO'S SHE?
YOU DON'T KNOW HILLARY REED? SHE MODELS FOR ROCKSTAR JEANS!

SEE?
DOOTONGYAK BAND
SHE WAS THE NEXT BIG STAR AFTER BRIDGET SHAW. YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS?

WOW, THAT'S... NICE...
AND SHE DOES HAVE A PRETTY AMAZING BODY...

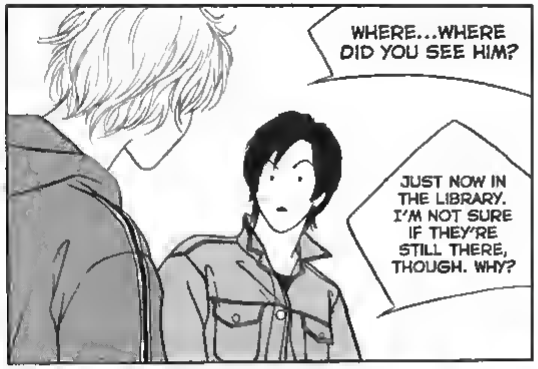
WHAT...WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT...?
DOCHAN
HEY... DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE NOT TOO SHABBY YOURSELF...

I JUST WISH YOU COULD FILL OUT A BIT. SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I'M WITH A BOY.

WHAT? WHAT'S BOYISH ABOUT ME?! I'M FINE JUST THE WAY I AM!
YOU COULD USE A FEW MORE MUSCLES YOURSELF!
Thwack!
Thwack!
Thwack!
Ouch!

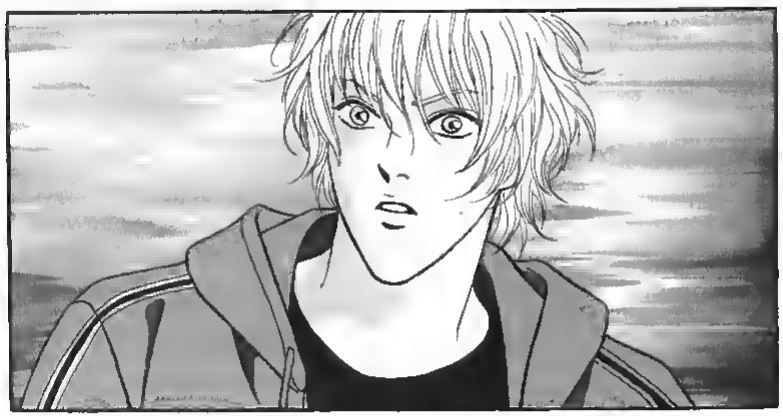
HMM...NO MATTER HOW GREAT HER BODY IS, YOU STILL WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO HER. SHE COMES TO SCHOOL WITH A BODYGUARD. HE'S ALWAYS WITH HER--INCLUDING CLASSES AND LUNCH.
I THINK SOME GUYS MUST HAVE BEEN STALKING HER AT HER PREVIOUS SCHOOL. BUT...THANKS TO THIS GUY, NO ONE CAN BOTHER HER ANYMORE.
I GUESS HE MUST BE PRETTY INTIMIDATING.
YEAH, WELL...HE HAS AN AMAZING BODY HIMSELF. THEY BOTH SEEM LIKE MODELS. ALL THE GUYS ARE SO JEALOUS OF HIM.
SO, WHAT...THEY PICKED A BODYGUARD BASED ON HIS LOOKS, SO THE OTHER GUYS WOULD FEEL BAD AND NOT BOTHER HER? COME ON! IS HE *REALLY* THAT GOOD LOOKING?!
UH-UHH. I HEAR HE WENT HERE LAST YEAR... WAS IN TENTH GRADE... HUH. WHAT *WAS* HIS NAME...?

HE TRANSFERRED HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR, SO THATS WHY I DON'T REMEMBER...BUT WHAT *WAS* IT? IT'S THE SAME NAME OF A DIRECTOR I LIKE...
WAIT--RIGHT! *SPIKE!* HIS NAME IS SPIKE.
WHAT?
YEP, I'M SURE THAT'S RIGHT. SPIKE. WHAT? DO YOU KNOW HIM?
*SPIKE?!*




*DID HE REALLY COME BACK...?*

SPIKE!



KAI.
YOU...
WHAT'S UP? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST.

SPIKE... IT REALLY *IS* YOU! WHAT HAPPENED?! ARE YOU BACK HERE FOR GOOD NOW?!
YEAH... BUT I HAD TO COME BACK AS A SOPHOMORE. I GUESS YOU'RE A JUNIOR NOW, HUH?

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS...? AND HOW COULD YOU *DO* THIS TO *ME*?!

I'M...SORRY. I WANTED TO CONTACT YOU, BUT I WAS... BUSY. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
I WAITED A LONG TIME, TOO...FOR *YOU*.

YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS BEING STRANDED BY MYSELF?

SOMETIMES I COULD USE A LITTLE COMFORT, TOO.

SPIKE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH...

YOU'RE MY BODYGUARD-- WHICH MEANS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME AT ALL TIMES!
SORRY. A FRIEND CAME BY. WE WERE JUST CATCHING UP.

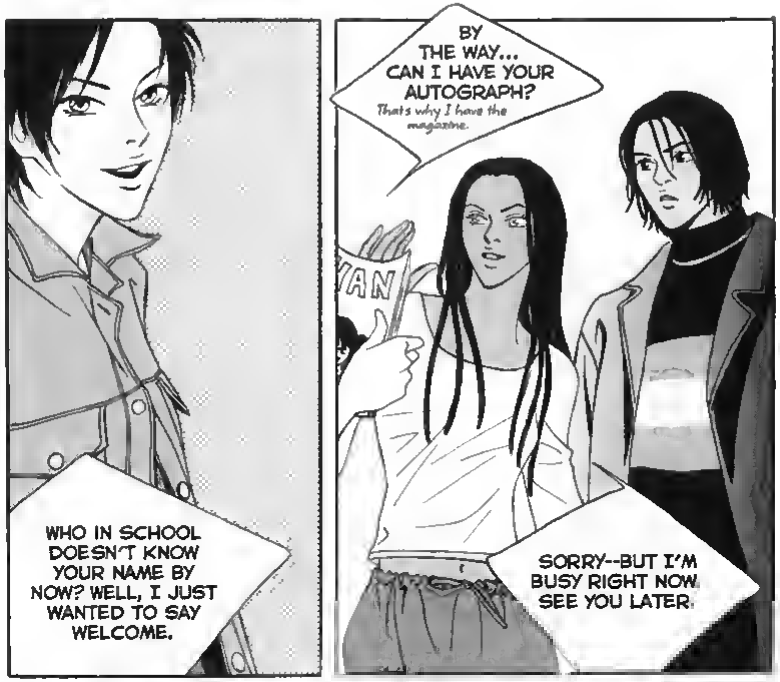
HE'S CHANGED...
IS THAT WHY YOU WANTED TO COME TO THIS SCHOOL? OOH! I'M GOING TO TELL MY BROTHER!

THIS IS NOT THE SPIKE I KNEW.
GOTTA RUN! I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER!
SOMETIMES I COULD USE A LITTLE COMFORT, TOO.
THE SPIKE I KNEW WOULD NEVER SAY SOMETHING THAT WEAK.

HE WAS SO STRONG... SOMETIMES I WONDERED IF HIS HEART WAS MADE OF STEEL.
NO--THAT'S NOT IT. I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT IS...BUT SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT.
WHAT...WHAT HAPPENED WHILE HE WAS GONE?

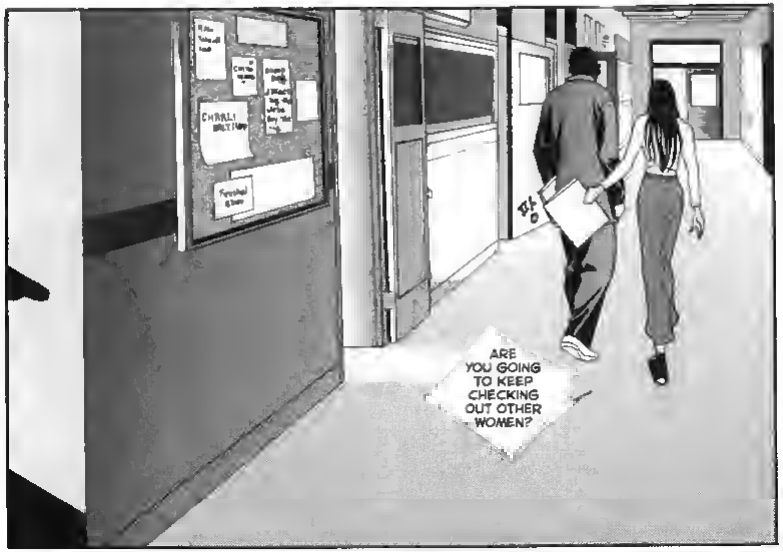
HUH...?

HI, HILLARY.
OH...HI.
HI, SPIKE.
UH... YOU KNOW MY NAME?


WHO IN SCHOOL DOESN'T KNOW YOUR NAME BY NOW? WELL, I JUST WANTED TO SAY WELCOME.
BY THE WAY... CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
That's why I have the magazine.
SORRY--BUT I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW. SEE YOU LATER.

YEAH, WELL... WE'LL BE SEEING YOU...
COME ON. LET'S GO.




ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP CHECKING OUT OTHER WOMEN?

WHAT A GREAT-LOOKING COUPLE...

HUH?
KAI?
HEY...
...DID YOU SEE THEM? THEY JUST WENT THAT WAY...
I SAW.
SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK? SHE'S REALLY PRETTY, ISN'T SHE? SHE LOOKS LIKE A BARBIE DOLL!
OH, YOU MEAN HILLARY? WELL, SHE'S NOT ALL THAT...

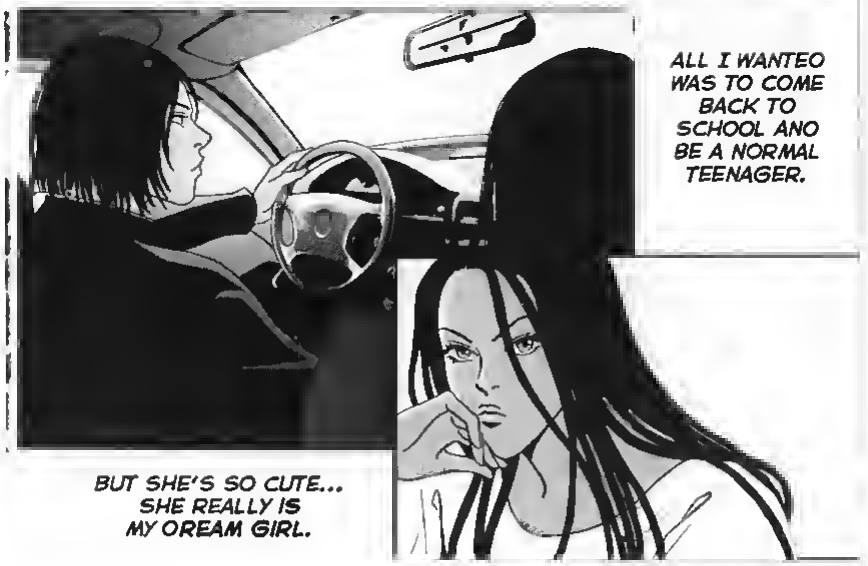
WHAT--EVEN *SHE'S* NOT UP TO PAR? HOW MUCH *MORE* DO YOU NEED?! DO YOU WANT ME TO GET A BOOB JOB SO MINE CAN BE BIGGER THAN HERS?
NO. I DON'T WANT YOU TO DO ANYTHING.
I THINK THEY'RE JUST AN AWESOME-LOOKING COUPLE. DO YOU THINK THEY'LL BECOME AN ITEM?
AN *ITEM?*
COME ON! HOW CAN THEY NOT? A BEAUTIFUL MODEL AND HER BODYGUARD... THAT'S ALREADY BEEN GREAT MOVIE MATERIAL. YOU KNOW THE STORY-- "I'LL PROTECT YOU UNTIL I DIE!" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
~And~ I~ will Always~ love you~

LET'S GO!
WHERE?
WE'RE GONNA MAKE OUR *OWN MOVIE.*
WHAT?
WE'LL BUY EXPENSIVE CLOTHES, EAT WHATEVER WE WANT-- JUST HAVE SOME FUN! IF THEY'RE SHOOTING THE *BODYGUARD*, THEN WE'LL DO *PRETTY WOMAN!*
WHAT?!



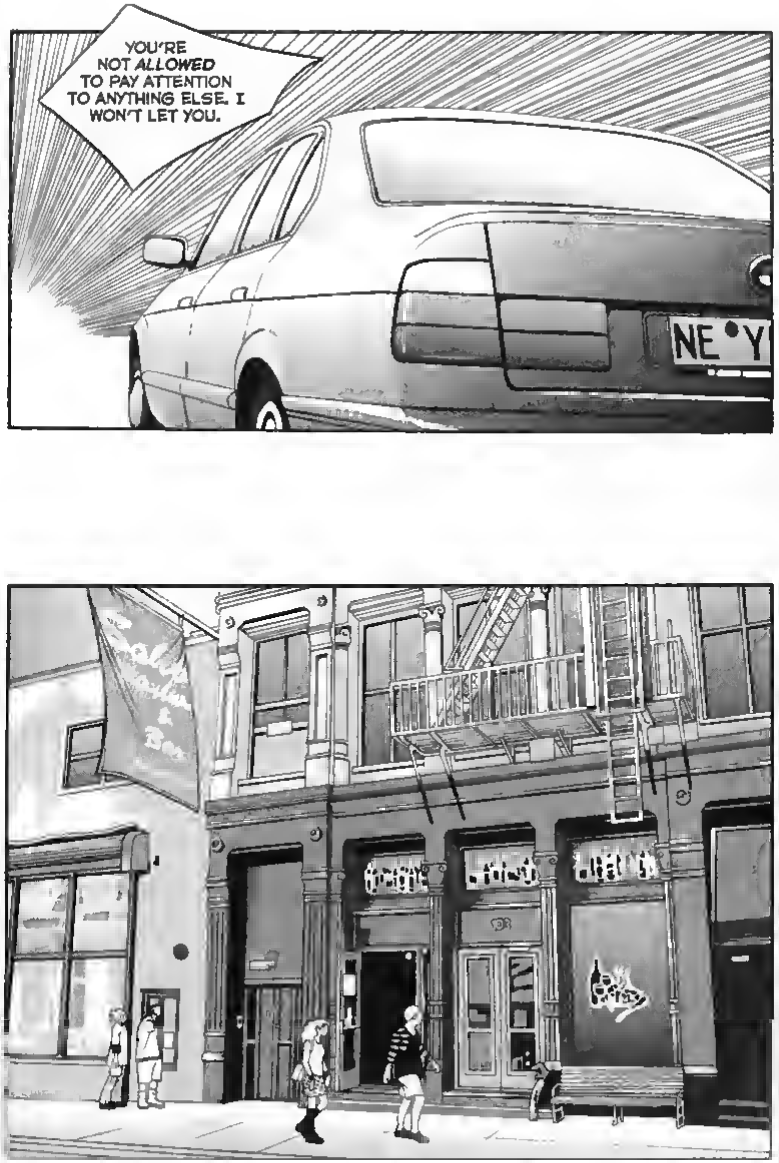
*I THOUGHT I HAD FORGOTTEN THAT FACE...*

*I DIDN'T THINK SHE COULO AFFECT ME ANYMORE...*



YOU...YOU SEEM REALLY EXCITED TODAY.
IT'S NOTHING. IT'S JUST GOOD TO BE BACK IN SCHOOL.
SO IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT ASIAN GIRL?
WHAT?
JUST REMEMBER... YOU'RE *MY* BODYGUARD.

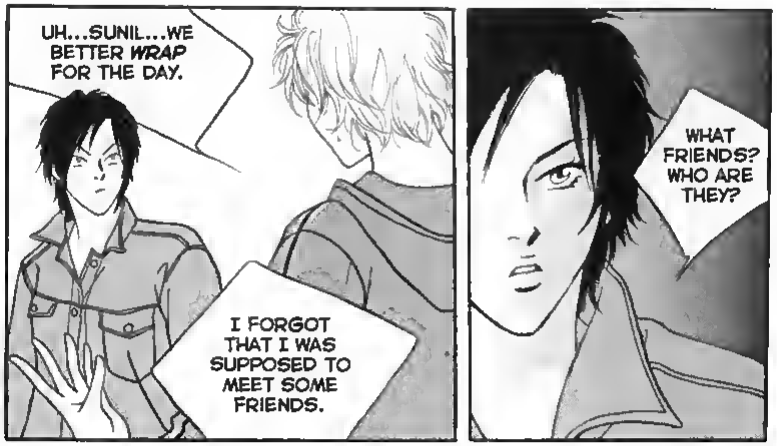



YOU'RE NOT *ALLOWED* TO PAY ATTENTION TO ANYTHING ELSE. I WON'T LET YOU.
NE Y

BANANA REPUBLIC
LAURA ASHLEY
MARAOLO
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S TOO REVEALING.
WHAT KIND OF REACTION IS THAT?!
IT LOOKS TERRIBLE, DOESN'T IT?!
I TOLD YOU I DON'T LIKE THIS KIND OF CLOTHING!
I had no idea how sexy she is !
NO, NO! YOU LOOK FINE! I MEAN, REALLY, REALLY, GOOD!
BETTER THAN HILLARY, EVEN!
YEAH... RIGHT.

TRY THIS ONE, TOO.
THIS LOOKS PRETTY NICE, DOESN'T IT?
LET'S JUST BUY THEM ALL. YOU'LL WEAR THEM EVENTUALLY.
ARE YOU CRAZY?! WHEN AM I EVER GOING TO WEAR SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
YOU'RE RIGHT. SO WHY DON'T YOU PICK SOMETHING FROM HERE? I THINK THIS IS MORE YOUR STYLE.
GAP
THAT'S ENOUGH! STOP! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'VE SPENT?! I'M FREAKING OUT!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY... IT'S JUST NOT MY STYLE...

I'M THE ONE WHO'S PAYING-- SO WHY ARE YOU FREAKED OUT?
DO YOU REALLY HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY?
Rrrrr.
Rrrrrrrrr...
YEAH... I HAVE SO MUCH I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT. SO JUST STOP WORRYING.
I don't believe this!
HELLO?
WHAT? TODAY? RIGHT... I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT.
OKAY. I'LL BE THERE. JUST WAIT THERE FOR ME. ALL RIGHT, I GOT IT.


UH...SUNIL...WE BETTER *WRAP* FOR THE DAY.
I FORGOT THAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET SOME FRIENDS.
WHAT FRIENDS? WHO ARE THEY?

NO ONE YOU KNOW. LET'S GO. I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.
CAN I COME WITH YOU?

NO.
NO? WHY?
THEY'RE NOT YOUR CROWD. EVEN IF YOU DO COME, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY FUN.

KAI...?

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST *BUY* MY *HAPPINESS*?!
I'M SORRY...BUT IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY FOR ME!
YOU BOUGHT THE STYLES *YOU* LIKE WITH *YOUR* MONEY--SO TAKE THEM HOME AND DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH THEM! I DON'T NEED *ANY* OF IT!
EVEN AFTER A COUPLE OF MONTHS, I *STILL* DON'T KNOW YOU!
YOU'RE INVOLVED IN A WORLD I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.

DON'T YOU GET IT? I WANT TO KNOW THE *REAL* YOU--NO MATTER WHO IT IS!
.....
SHIT.

SHOT #10: Dangerous Play

THERE HE IS.
RIGHT ON TIME.
WHO'S THAT WITH HIM?
WELCOME BACK, BOSS.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE. HAVE I MISSED ANYTHING INTERESTING?
IT'S BEEN SO QUIET... WE WERE GETTING BORED.

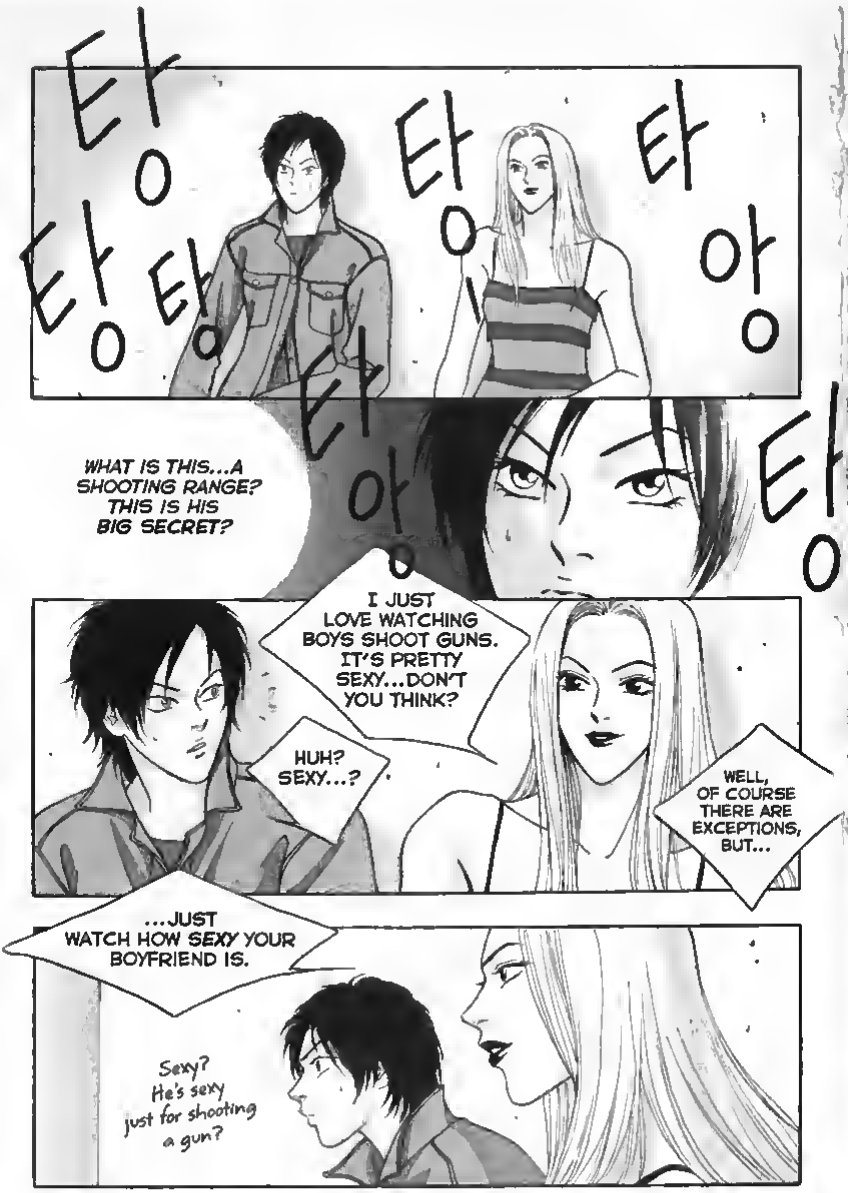
SO... WHO IS SHE?
MY GIRLFRIEND.
GIRLFRIEND?
WHAT ABOUT JIN?
HA HA HA! HI! WE'RE KAI'S GANG! BUT YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNEW THAT. RIGHT? NICE TO MEET YOU! COME ON IN!
UH... HI.
JIN...?

LONG TIME NO SEE. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND LATELY.
YEAH... HOW ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS? BRINGING YOUR GIRLFRIEND HERE...?
AREN'T YOU GONNA INTRODUCE US?
THIS IS SUNIL SOHN. SHE'S KOREAN-AMERICAN.
HI. MY NAME IS YUH-JIN-- BUT EVERYONE CALLS ME JIN.
I'M TWENTY-TWO-- SO BASICALLY, I'M HERE BABYSITTING THESE KIDS.
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!

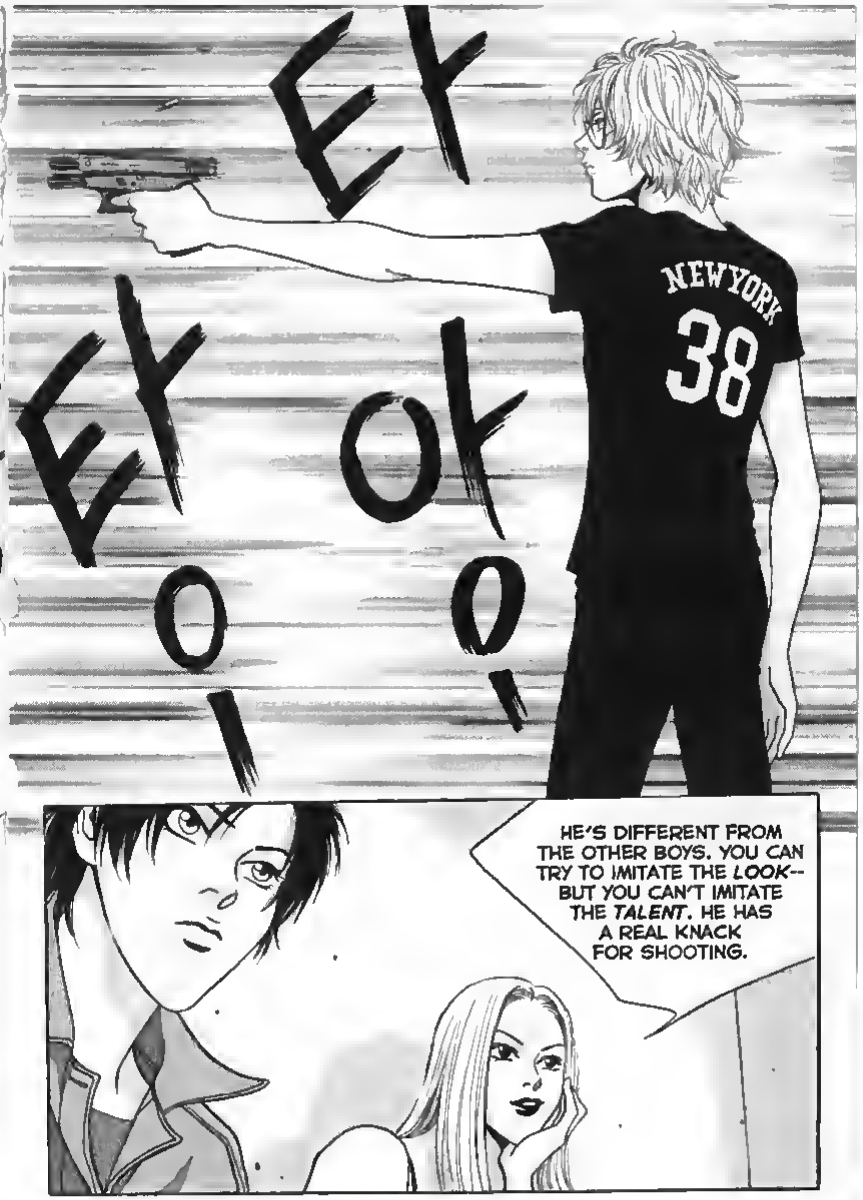
THEY CALL ME SUNIL...THOUGH SOMETIMES IT GETS MIS-PRONOUNCED...
JIN?! THIS IS THE GIRL THEY WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT...?!
SHE REALLY IS BEAUTIFUL... SO BEAUTIFUL, IN FACT, IT'S INTIMIDATING! NOW I KNOW WHY HE SAID HILLARY WASN'T ALL THAT...!
SUNIL, HUH? THAT NAME REALLY SUITS YOU.
OH... YEAH...
KAI...I KNEW YOU WERE THE PLAYER OF THE CENTURY, BUT... A TWENTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD...?
I had no idea!
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER...

132

133


WHAT IS THIS...A SHOOTING RANGE? THIS IS HIS BIG SECRET?
I JUST LOVE WATCHING BOYS SHOOT GUNS. IT'S PRETTY SEXY...DON'T YOU THINK?
HUH? SEXY...?
WELL, OF COURSE THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS, BUT...
...JUST WATCH HOW SEXY YOUR BOYFRIEND IS.
Sexy? He's sexy just for shooting a gun?

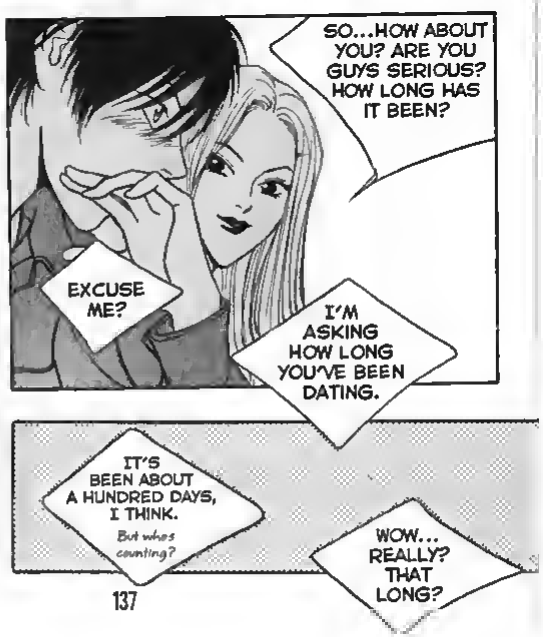



NEWYORK
38
HE'S DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER BOYS. YOU CAN TRY TO IMITATE THE LOOK--BUT YOU CAN'T IMITATE THE TALENT. HE HAS A REAL KNACK FOR SHOOTING.

타
HOW... HOW DO YOU KNOW KAI? YOU SEEM LIKE YOU KNOW HIM PRETTY WELL...
ME? OH, I'M JUST HIS PLAYTHING.
타 타 타
EXCUSE ME...?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
타 타 타 타 타 타 타

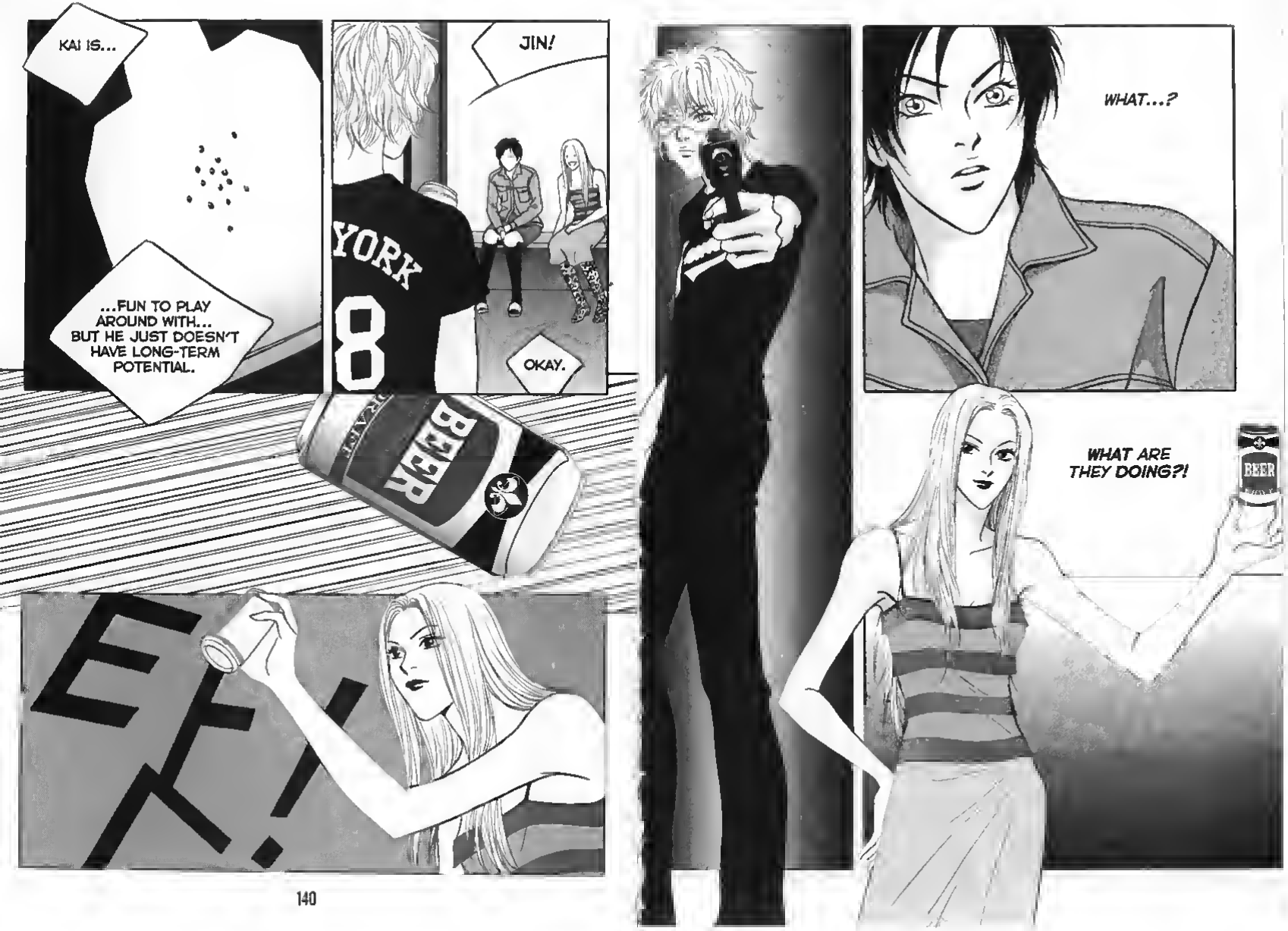
NEW YOR
34

Ha ha ha! I'm kidding, I'm kidding!


SO...HOW ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU GUYS SERIOUS? HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
EXCUSE ME?
I'M ASKING HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN DATING.
IT'S BEEN ABOUT A HUNDRED DAYS, I THINK.
But who's counting?
WOW... REALLY? THAT LONG?

THAT'S AMAZING! AS FAR AS I KNOW, KAI'S NEVER DATED ANY GIRL THAT LONG BEFORE.
I GUESS HE'S MET HIS MATCH THIS TIME.
YOU ARE PRETTY CUTE... THOUGH AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU LOOK LIKE A *BOY*...
YOU'RE TALL AND SKINNY LIKE A BOY...BUT YOU HAVE BIG EYES. ACTUALLY, THE MORE I LOOK AT YOU, THE MORE I SEE YOUR CHARM.

EXO
EXO
WHAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU'RE THE BEAUTIFUL ONE!
ME? NO...! I'M ALL ABOUT MAKEUP! I HAVE TO TRY REALLY HARD TO LOOK CUTE.
Y'KNOW, I ACTUALLY LIKE YOU. *REALLY.* LET'S BE FRIENDS...
AND SINCE WE ARE FRIENDS, I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE...
...DON'T GET *TOO* INVOLVED WITH A GUY LIKE *KAI*.


KAI IS...
...FUN TO PLAY AROUND WITH... BUT HE JUST DOESN'T HAVE LONG-TERM POTENTIAL.
JIN!
OKAY.
YORK
8
BEER
WHAT...?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?!
BEER

THAT'S AMAZING!
HE NEVER MISSES!

THEY'RE ALL CRAZY! THEY MUST BE OUT OF THEIR MINDS TO DO SOMETHING SO DANGEROUS!

WELL...THIS IS BORING. KAI'S GOTTEN TOO GOOD AT SHOOTING. THERE'S NO THRILL IN IT ANYMORE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? DOES ANYONE ELSE WANNA TRY?
Should I do it...? Should I try...?
Are you crazy?! I don't wanna kill anybody!
No way! We're not that good yet!

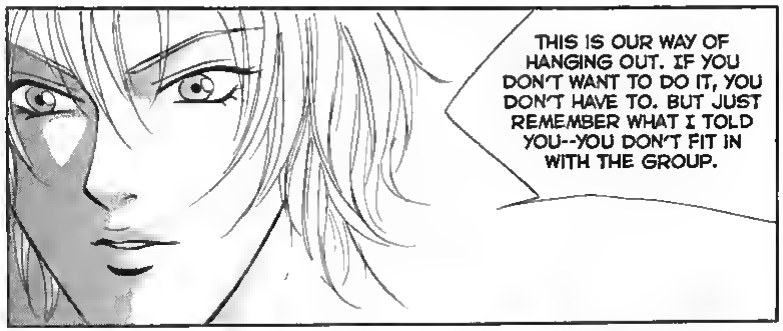
SUNIL... WHY DON'T YOU TRY?

EXCUSE ME?

I WANT YOU TO TRY IT. WILL YOU?

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! I-I'VE NEVER EVEN TOUCHED A GUN BEFORE!
THAT'S EVEN BETTER! IT'S MORE THRILLING THAT WAY! PLEASE COME SHOOT! AS A FAVOR TO ME...

HERE.
TRY IT.


THIS IS OUR WAY OF HANGING OUT. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO. BUT JUST REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU--YOU DON'T FIT IN WITH THE GROUP.

YOU CAN WALK AWAY RIGHT NOW. I'LL EVEN TAKE YOU HOME.

# SOUL TO SEOUL

E.G. MASONS DAY BY DAY

HMM...
HMM...
!
HEH HEH...
I'M SORRY.

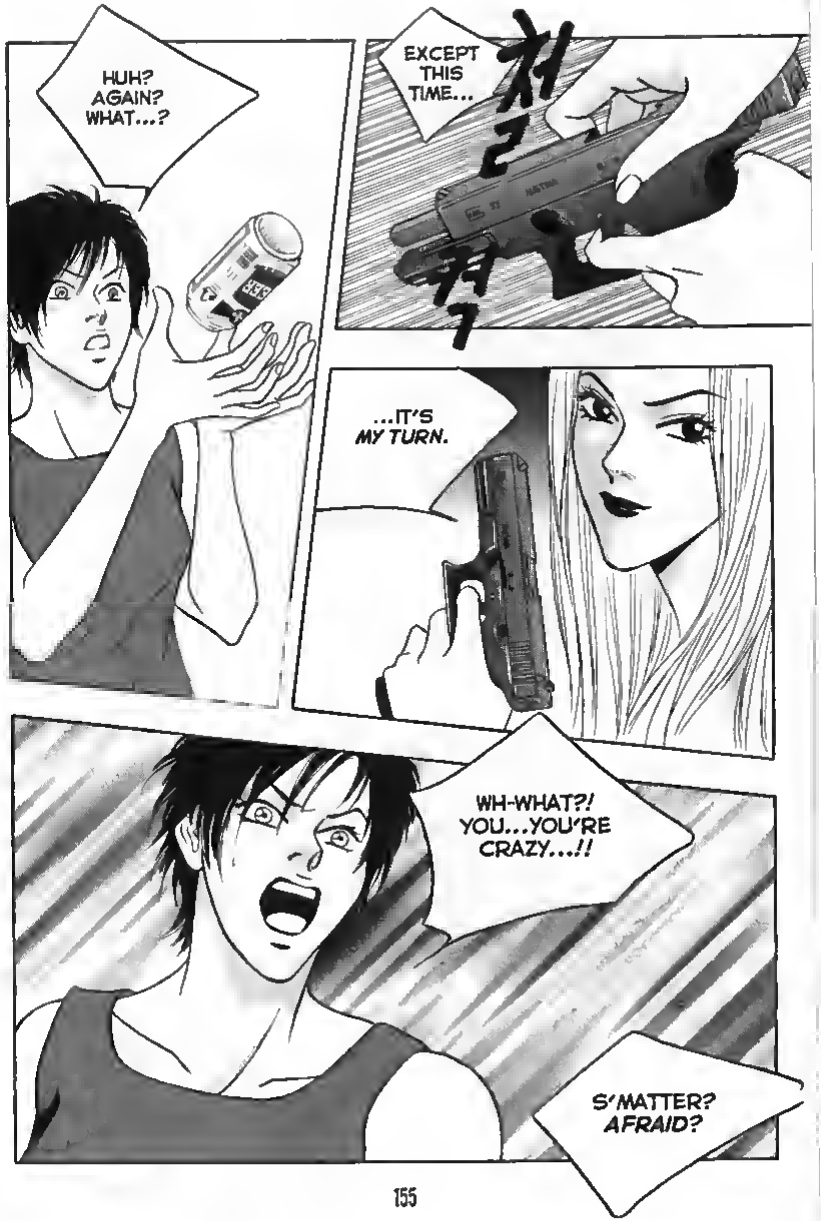
WELL, THEN...
CHECKMATE!
ハメ!
Aaaaaagh!!
OH OH OH
SO... I WON AGAIN?
I FELL FOR IT-- AGAIN!
This is a complete loss!

Byung-Chul, did you really hate washing dishes that much?

LET'S LIVE TOGETHER FOREVER, SON!
YES... I KNOW, SO YOU CAN STOP WASHING..
EVEN IF YOU GET MARRIED, YOU GOTTA PROMISE YOU'LL LIVE WITH ME, OKAY?!
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY!
RELAX YOUR SHOULDER AND ARMS. TRY NOT TO BE SO TENSE.
NOW... THE RECOIL MIGHT HURT...

SUPPORT THE GUN WITH YOUR OTHER HAND, SO IT'LL BE STEADY.
THIS IS... HEAVIER THAN I THOUGHT...
SEE THE TARGET OVER THERE?
ALIGN THE TOP OF YOUR GUN WITH YOUR TARGET.
TAKE A DEEP BREATH BEFORE PULLING THE TRIGGER. THEN...
...SHOOT!

WOW! SHE HIT IT!
SHE DID IT!! SHE DID IT!!
ET
O
THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT HER!
AWESOME!
IS THIS REALLY YOUR FIRST TIME?!
Wow!
Snap!
SURE, IT HIT THE CORNER-- BUT SHE STILL GOT IT!
NOT BAD. AGAIN.


HUH? AGAIN? WHAT...?
EXCEPT THIS TIME...
...IT'S *MY TURN.*
WH-WHAT?! YOU...YOU'RE CRAZY...!!
S'MATTER? *AFRAID?*

GOOD.
YOU HAVE GUTS. I LIKE THAT.

EH
OH
AAAGH!!

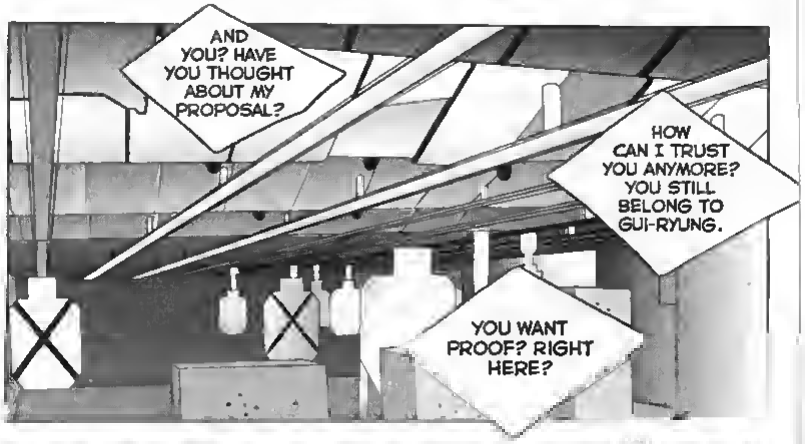
RELAX. IT WAS JUST THE CAN. IT HIT YOUR FACE...
BEER
NEW YORK
88
ARE YOU OKAY?
DO I LOOK OKAY?!
OH NO...! SORRY! I DION'T KNOW IT WOULO HIT YOU LIKE THAT... I SWEAR!
NO WAY...

Y'KNOW... MINUS THE BLOODY FOREHEAD... YOU ACTUALLY LOOK EVEN CUTER.
WHAT...?!
THE LOOK IN HER EYES... IT'S AS IF SHE WANTEO TO KILL ME...
I MUST BE MISTAKEN. AT LEAST I HOPE I AM...
YOU... IS THIS HOW YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR GIRLFRIENO?!
"TAKE CARE OF?" I'M... I'M SORRY...
LET'S GET YOU TO THE HOSPITAL RIGHT AWAY!
I SEE YOU BOYS ARE HAVING SOME FUN.

IF YOU PRACTICE A BIT MORE, YOU CAN JOIN THE FREAK SHOW.
SINCE WHEN DID THIS PLACE BECOME A PLAYGROUND FOR LITTLE KIDS LIKE YOU? HAVE YOU EVEN FINISHED YOUR HOMEWORK, KIDDIES?
PLEASE BE LIE BECOME
TRUTH
AUSHILFE
DÖFT
GUYS... LET'S CLEAN UP THIS MESS.
YEAH.

WHAT? WHO ARE THEY?
ARE THEY CHINESE?
NOT ALL OF 'EM. LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A KOREAN GUY, TOO.
IT'S GUI-RYUNG.
LEAVE THIS TO ME.
WHAT? GUI-RYUNG?! THEY'RE...
RIGHT. IT'S THEM. SO BE COOL.
GUI-RYUNG? WHO ARE THEY...?
Check out that tattoo on his arm.

HI.
HOW YOU DOING?
NOT TOO BAD.
WHAT IS THIS? WHY ARE YOU STILL WITH THEM? SO ALL THAT TALK ABOUT BEING MY PARTNER... WAS THAT JUST A JOKE?
IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING. WITH A GANG THIS LARGE, I REALLY NEED TO BE CAREFUL...BUT YOU KNOW THIS.
I SEE.

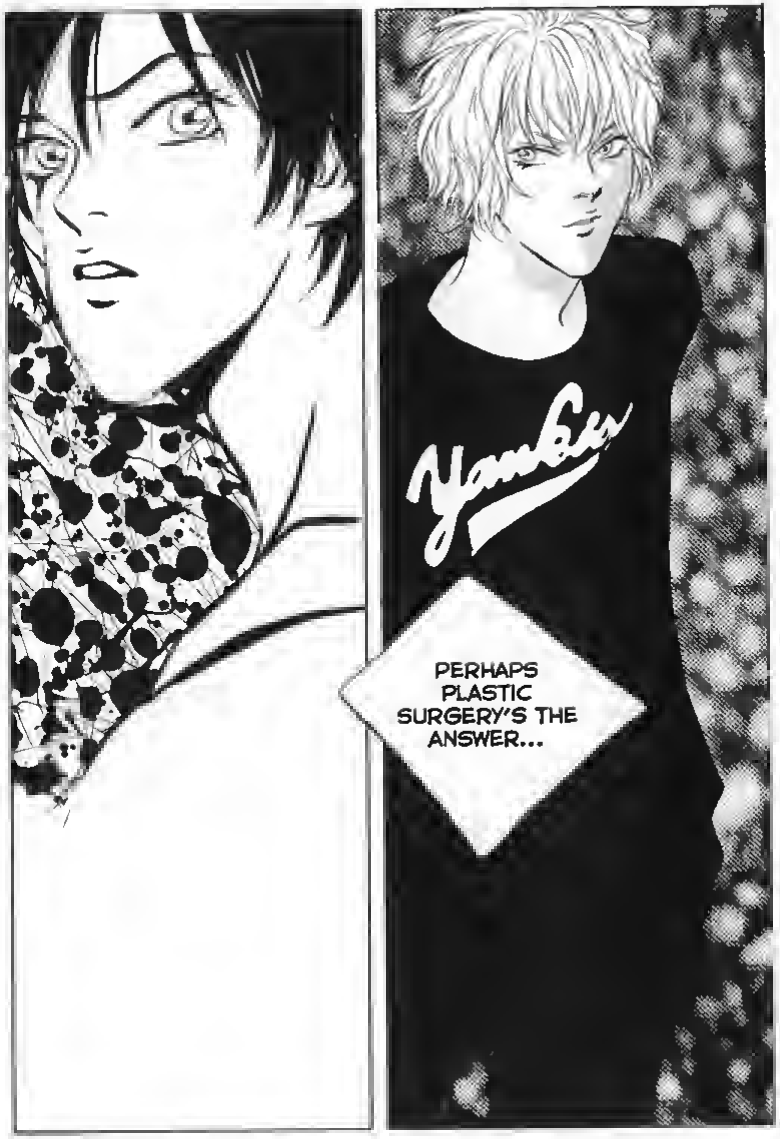

AND YOU? HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT MY PROPOSAL?
HOW CAN I TRUST YOU ANYMORE? YOU STILL BELONG TO GUI-RYUNG.
YOU WANT PROOF? RIGHT HERE?

PLEASE BE LIE BECOME
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING OVER THERE?
THAT BLEACHED HAIR GUY...
AUSHILEF FT

DO THEY KNOW EACH OTHER? WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
BEATS ME.

YEAH, FINE--BUT *NOT* TODAY. MY GIRLFRIEND'S HURT AND I NEED TO TAKE HER TO THE HOSPITAL.
NEWYORK
38
*THAT KID... HE LOOKS SO FAMILIAR...*

YO, WHITE-HAIRED BOY! HOLD UP!
*IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOT CHEN!*
PLEASE
YORK
8
DAMN. JUST CHANGING THE COLOR OF MY HAIR DIDN'T WORK TOO WELL, HUH?



I WAS IN SECOND GRADE WHEN I FIRST VISITED THIS COUNTRY.

MY MOM'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY ALL LIVED IN LA, SO WE CAME AND STAYED FOR A MONTH'S VACATION.

WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE, I WAS MORE EXCITED ABOUT MEETING MY FAMILY THAN ABOUT SEEING AMERICA.

MY FAMILY IN KOREA RARELY GOT TOGETHER, EVEN DURING THE HOLIDAYS-- SO I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO MEET NEW RELATIVES.

THEN I STARTED TO DREAM ABOUT AMERICA AND LIVING IN THIS COUNTRY.
AMERICA WAS FREE, RICH AND BEAUTIFUL. A COUNTRY FILLED WITH HAPPINESS...
AMBULANCE

SOUL TO SEOUL

I THINK I WAS IN FOURTH GRADE WHEN I STARTED READING BOOKS ABOUT KOREAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS. I BEGAN TO DREAM ABOUT BECOMING ONE MYSELF...
"SEVENTH SCENE, SEVENTH CHAPTER," "FROM SEOUL TO HARVARD," "BONUS SCORE AND DANCE PARTY," "YES, I'M KOREAN," AND SO ON...
THE EXPERIENCES DESCRIBED IN THOSE BOOKS SEEMED SO COOL AND EXCITING.
REALLY... AMERICA LOOKED SO AMAZING.
"GET THEM! DON'T LET ANYONE GET AWAY!"
"SUNIL...GO ON AHEAD WITHOUT ME."
NEW YORK
38
"KAI!!"

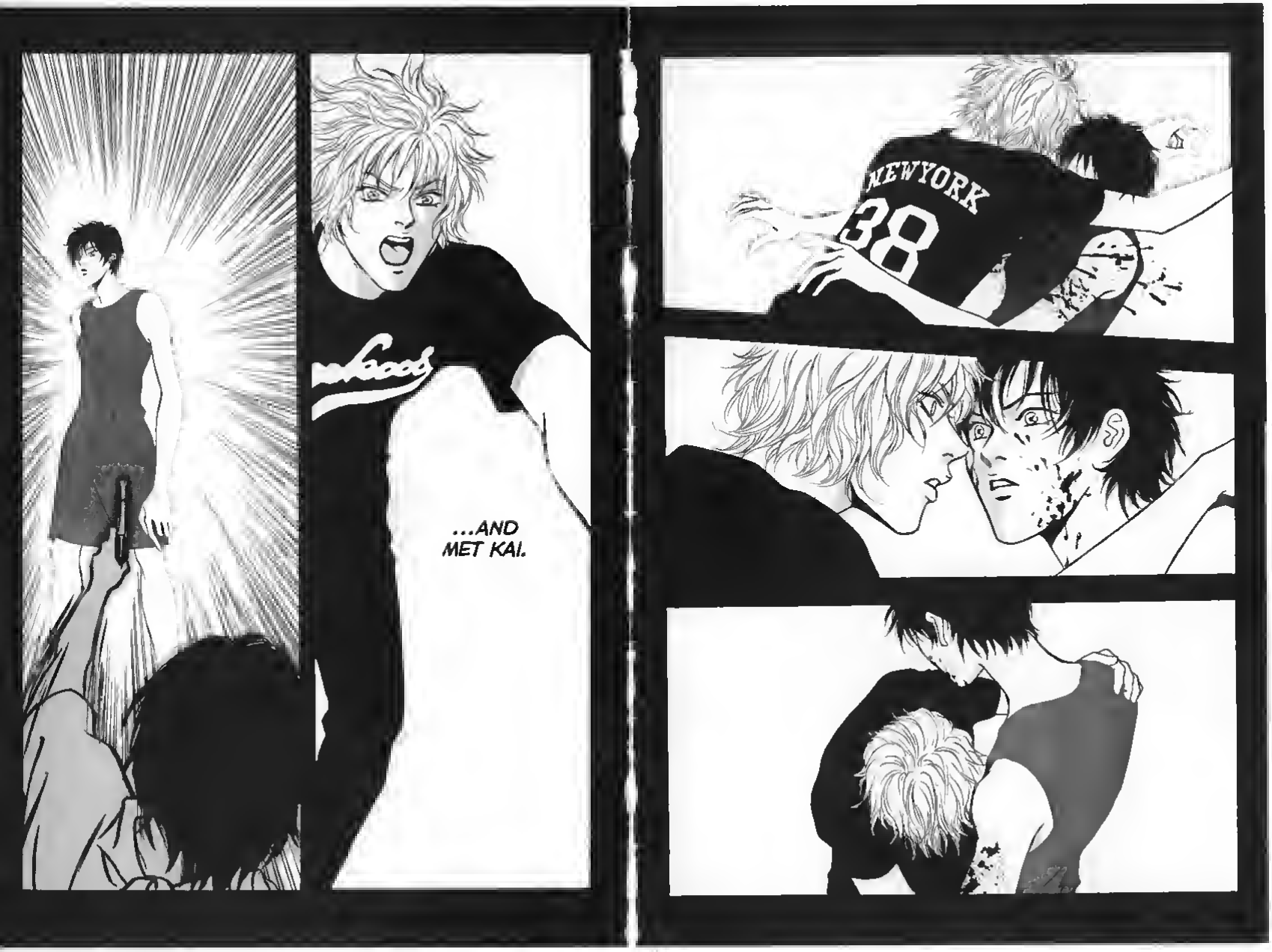
SO I WAITED... AND WHEN I WAS IN SEVENTH GRADE, I TOLD MY PARENTS THAT I WANTED TO STUDY IN AMERICA.
MOM JUST SAID "LET'S TALK ABOUT IT NEXT YEAR." SO I HAD TO WAIT AGAIN.
BUT THEN... IN EIGHTH GRADE, THE IMF* HIT KOREA-- AND I HAD TO STOP DREAMING ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD.

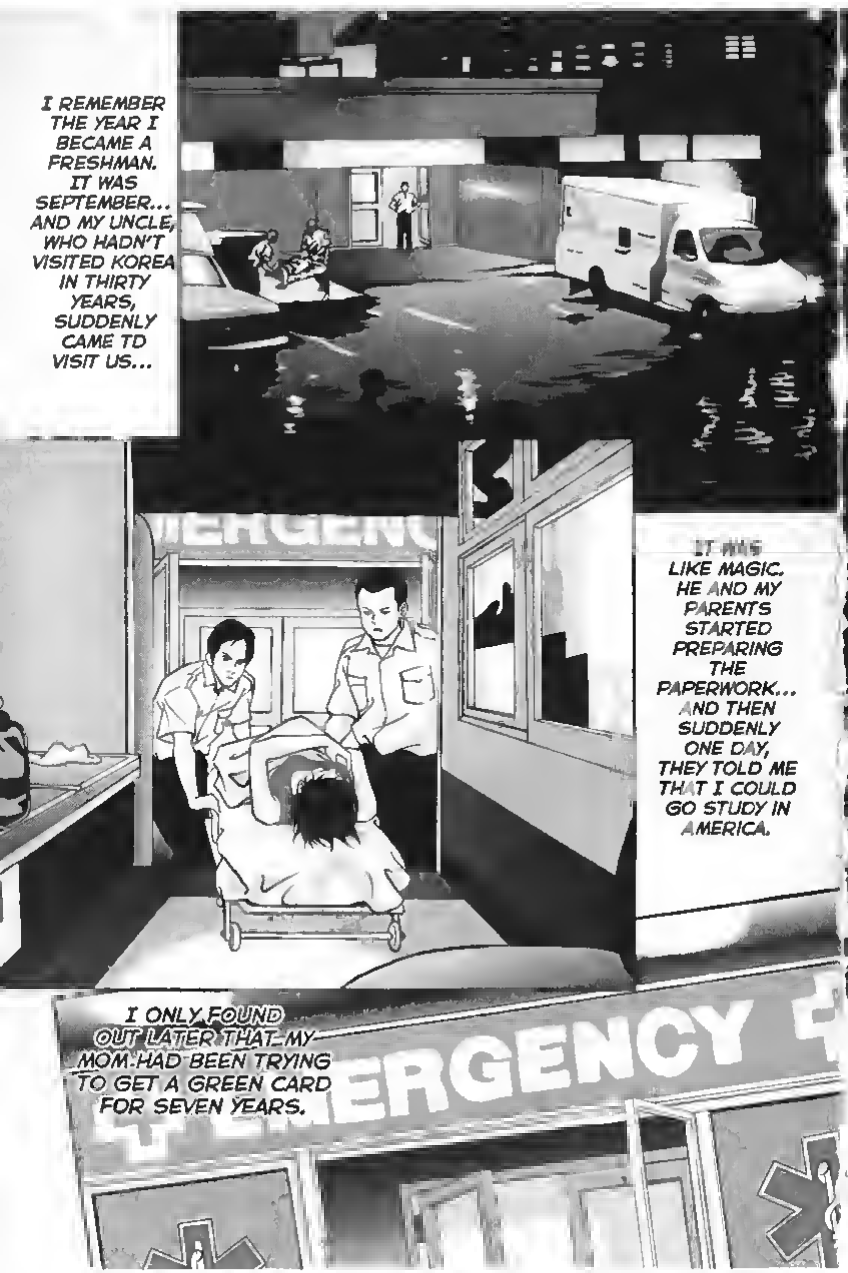
*Editor's Note- IMF stands for International Monetary Funds. Korea was hit hard economically during the 90's and had to ask for IMF funds to boost the economy. Koreans call that era "IMF." The value of Korean money (won) was so weak against the U.S. dollar that many foreign students had to come back to Korea--while many more were unable to go to the U.S.

BUT...
MAYBE IT
WAS FATE...

...THAT I
CAME TO
AMERICA
ANYWAY...

Yankees

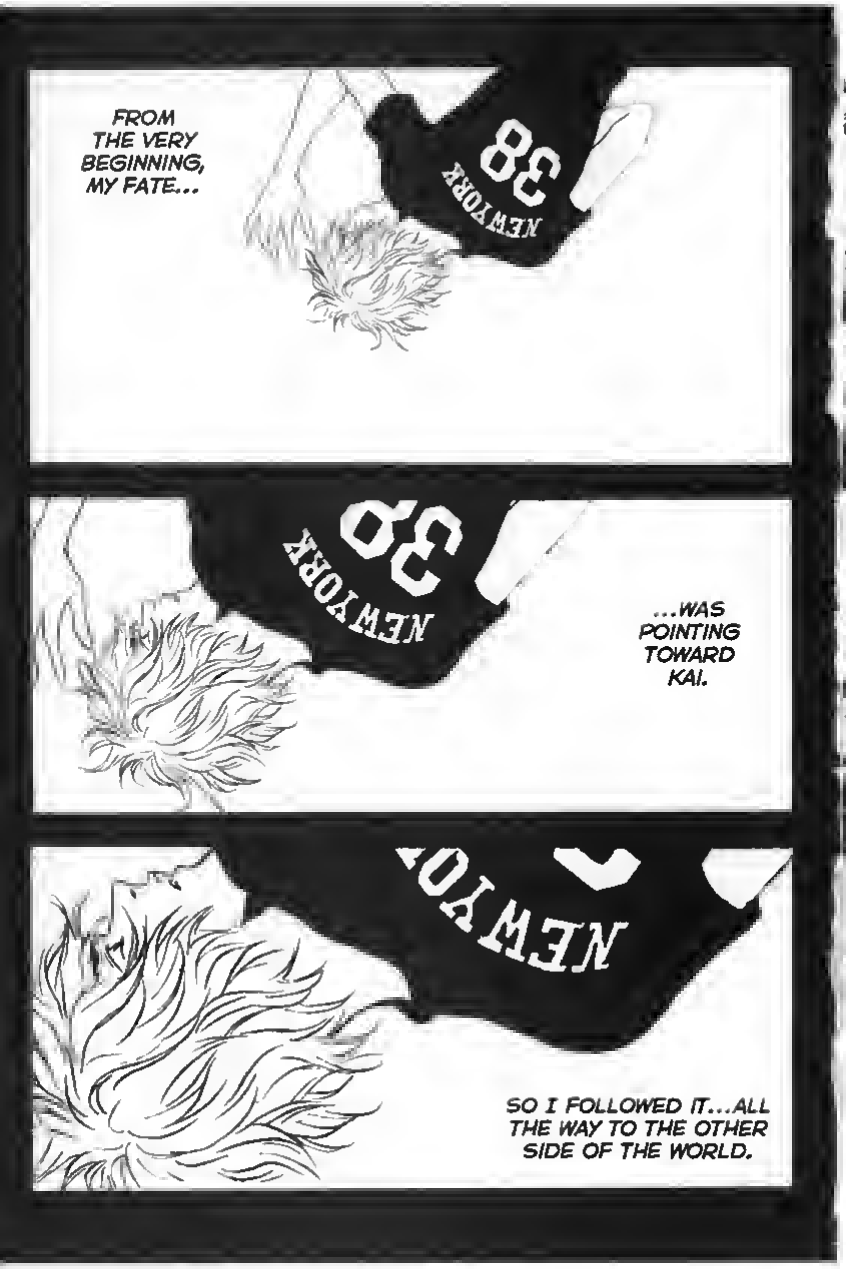

...AND
MET KAI.
NEW YORK
38


I REMEMBER THE YEAR I BECAME A FRESHMAN. IT WAS SEPTEMBER... AND MY UNCLE, WHO HADN'T VISITED KOREA IN THIRTY YEARS, SUDDENLY CAME TO VISIT US...
IT WAS LIKE MAGIC. HE AND MY PARENTS STARTED PREPARING THE PAPERWORK... AND THEN SUDDENLY ONE DAY, THEY TOLD ME THAT I COULD GO STUDY IN AMERICA.
I ONLY FOUND OUT LATER THAT MY MOM HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET A GREEN CARD FOR SEVEN YEARS.
EMERGENCY

KAI!!
IF THAT'S TRUE... IF FATE DOES EXIST...WAS IT MY FATE TO BE SHOT, TOO?

MY DAD WAS A FAMOUS NEWS REPORTER IN KOREA... BUT HE LEFT EVERYTHING BEHIND TO COME TO NEW YORK WITH ME.
SUNIL!
I HAD DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING AT FIRST. MY DAD, WHO NEVER CAME HOME BEFORE ELEVEN OR TWELVE IN KOREA, WOULD COME HOME NO LATER THAN EIGHT PM HERE.

DAD...
YES... IT'S ME.
EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT, NOW. YOU JUST GET SOME REST.
DAD...
IT'S...IT'S ALL MY FAULT...! IF I HADN'T BROUGHT YOU TO NEW YORK... AND...
SORRY, DAD...BUT YOU CAN'T FIGHT FATE.


FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, MY FATE...
...WAS POINTING TOWARD KAI.
SO I FOLLOWED IT...ALL THE WAY TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.

STUPID... I'M SO STUPID... I'VE REALIZED TOO LATE...
FORGET ABOUT THE NIGHTMARES.

NEW YORK
38
...HOW MUCH...
I REALLY...
LIKE...YOU...

## In the next volume of...

# SOUL TO SEOUL™

Kai and Sunil's relationship is still going strong, even though Kai is the reason Sunil got shot. In fact, as Sunil recovers, her feelings for Kai intensify. Meanwhile, with Kai and Spike still on the outs, Spike's new girlfriend Hillary helps to fill the void. Gelda continues to pine for J.J., taking drastic measures to see him. Sujin gets even closer to Kai--but just what is he after? Plus, the identity of the gang attack mastermind is revealed--and you'll never believe who it is!

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# SOUL TO SEOUL™

After being released from jail, Spike totally disappears from the neighborhood. When he finally resurfaces, Spike is a bodyguard for a girl enrolling in the same high school as Sunil. Although Spike's feelings for her are rekindled, Kai and Sunil are spending more time together. Sunil wants to know everything about Kai—including his hidden life! When a fight breaks out with rival gang members, Kai will stop at nothing to keep Sunil safe...

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